



GRAND GUIGNOL II

STARMAN



NO. 72
DEC '00

ROBINSON
SNEJBERG



ROBINSON
2000

FROM THE
SHADE'S
JOURNAL...

Culp's grand design
in Opal was over.

His shadow was
mine. I was the
victor.

But even as I stood over the
defeated Culp, preparing my
death stroke, so the victor was
denied his spoils.

Culp was killed by
another...

The Mist, to be
precise. The original
Mist, no longer
addled by age. No
longer muted in thought
or wit.

Now read on...

I SUPPOSE YOU'RE
WONDERING HOW I
GOT HERE.

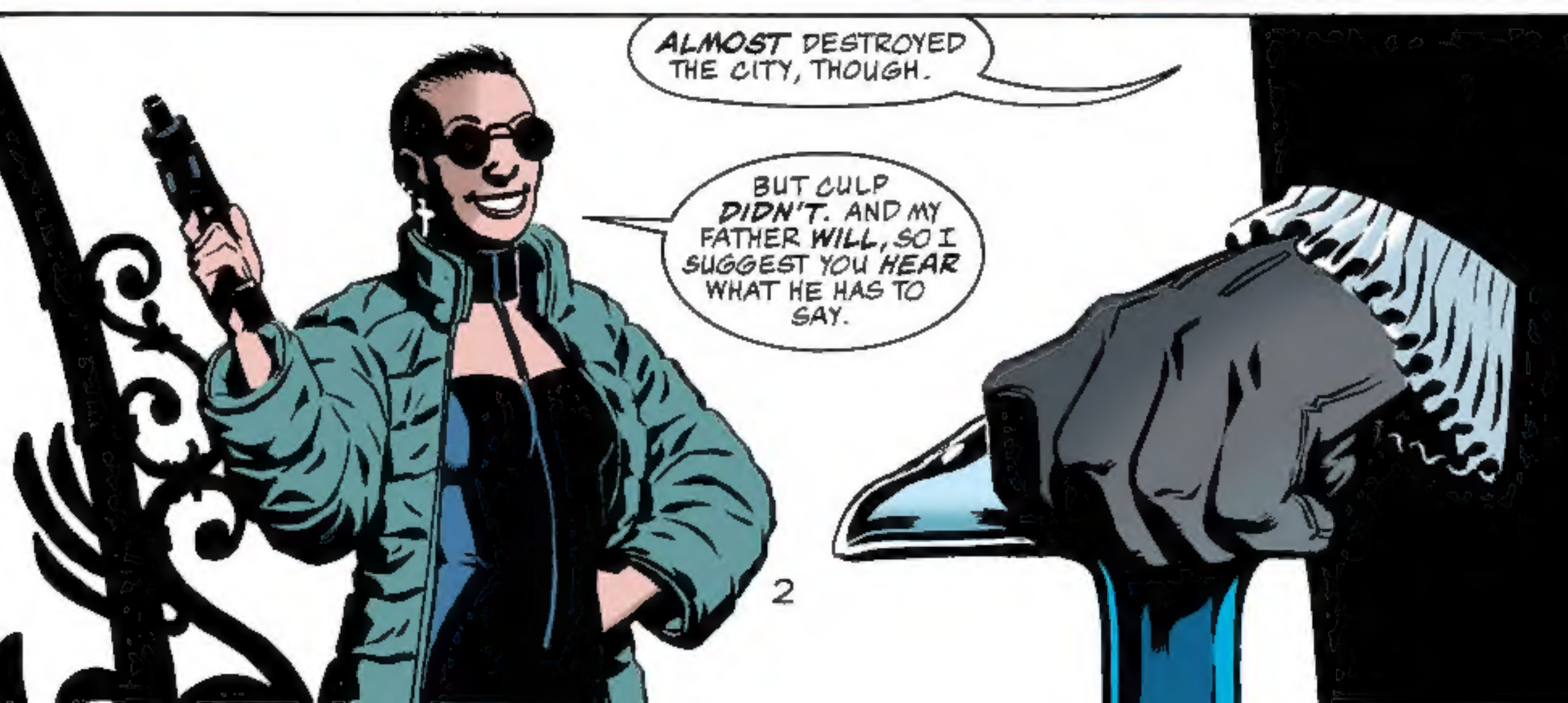
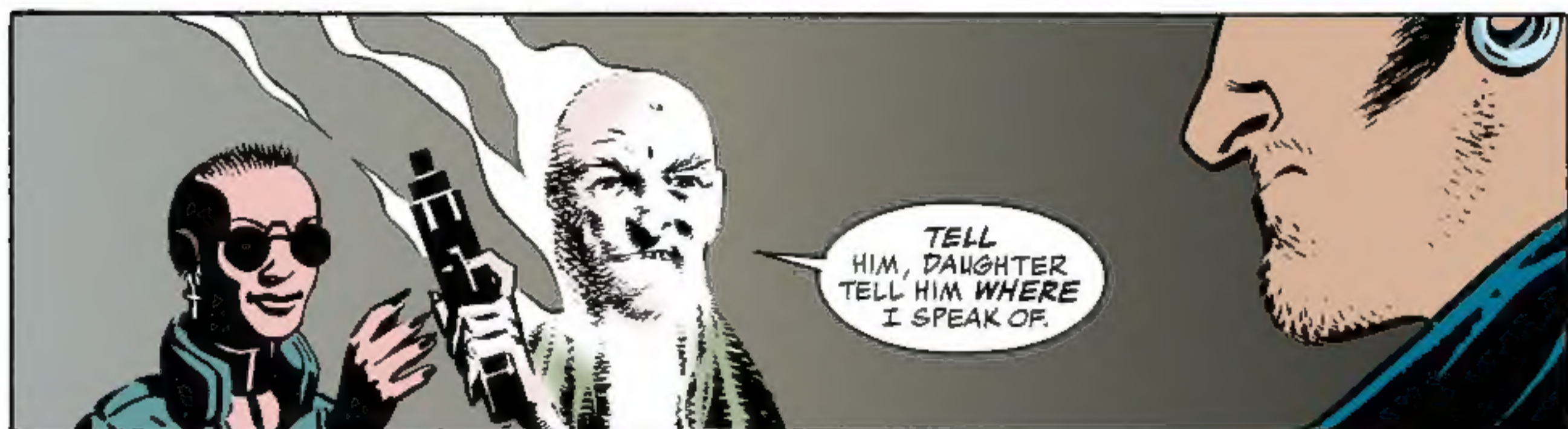
IN FACT, I'M
SURE YOU HAVE
A WHOLE LITANY
OF QUESTIONS.

FOR
SURE, BALDY. I
GOT A MILLION
Q'S NEED
A'S.

Grand Guignol Douzieme Partie

Finale

ROBINSON • SNEJBURG • OAKLEY • WRIGHT • JAMISON • WILLIAMS • TOMASI • GOODWIN • Jack Knight created
writer • artist • letterer • colorist • seps • assistant ed. • editor • guiding light • by Robinson & Harris





THE O'DARES.
ELSEWHERE.

I'LL MAKE A
DEAL WITH YOU,
CLARENCE.

OH,
YEAH?



YEAH... WHEN
CULP ALLOWS THE
BLACK CURTAIN TO
PART, YOU'LL HELP
ME GET OUT. I'LL
TAKE YOU WITH
ME.

THE O'DARE
NAME LIVES
ON EVEN
IF OPAL DIES.

I DON'T
THINK I CAN MAKE
THAT DEAL.

EVEN FOR
THE LIFE OF
YOUR WIFE?

I LOVE YOU, BABY.
I UNDERSTAND
YOU GOTTA DO WHAT
NEEDS DOING.

LOVE YOU
BACK. THE WAY
THINGS LOOK WE'LL
BE TOGETHER SOON
AS NOT.



HOW SWEET. ALL
YOU SUCCEEDED IN
DOING WAS MAKING
ME MAD.

SIR.



YOUR MISSUS
GOT A MINUTE
REPRIEVE WHILE
WE TAKE A SPON-
SOR BREAK.



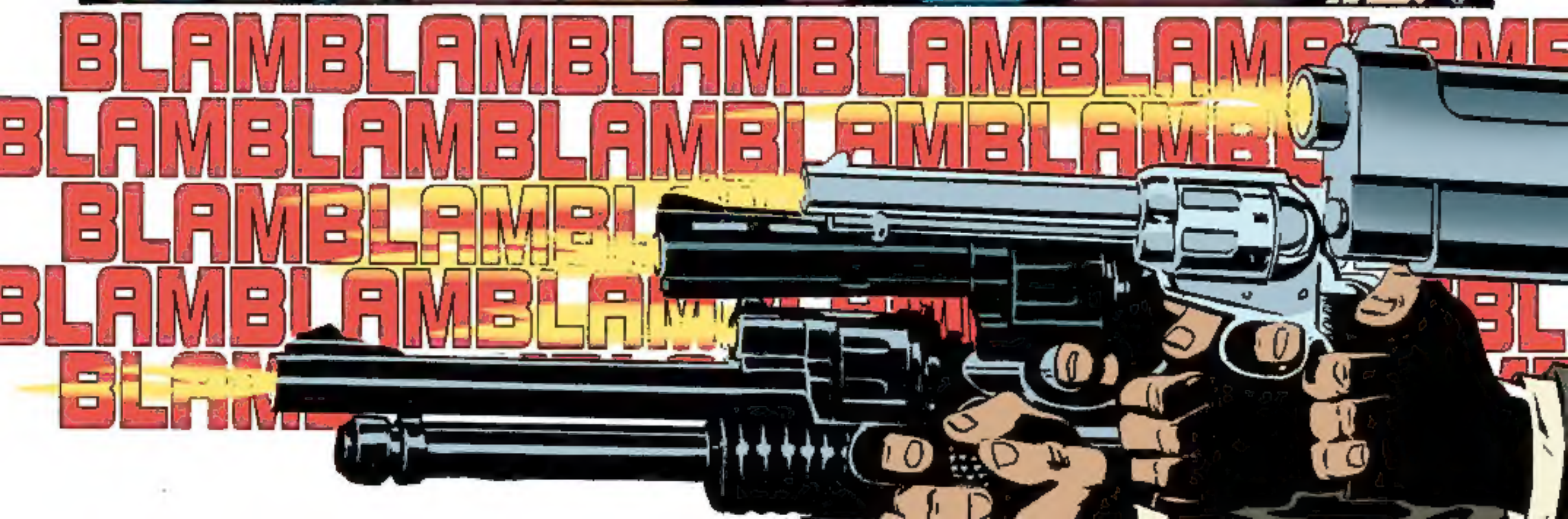
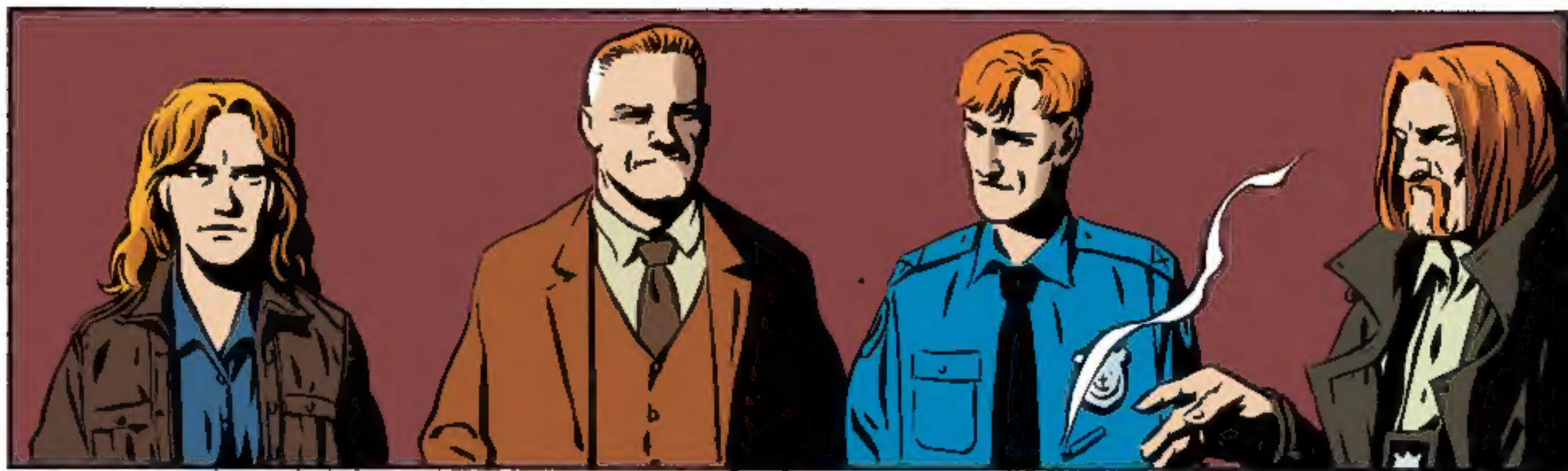
IT SEEMS THERE'S A CHANGE
IN PLANS. CULP IS DEAD. THE
DARKNESS IS GONE. NOW ALL
I NEED IS A GETAWAY.

I THINK I
CAN MANAGE
THAT ALL BY MY
LONESOME.

SO WHAT?



I BECOME
THE SOLE
SURVIVING
O'DARE IS
WHAT.



OPAL CITY CENTRAL POST
OFFICE / GOVERNMENT
BUILDING.

YOU TOOK
YOUR TIME.

WHERE
ARE THE
OTHERS?

MY WIFE AND HAMILTON
DREW AREN'T NEEDED HERE.
I THINK WE SHOULD LEAVE
SITUATIONS THAT BODE
DANGER TO THE PROFESSIONAL
AMATEURS LIKE JACK AND
ME.

YOU'D BETTER HAVE
STRAPPED YOUR WIFE TO
A ROCKET OUT OF TOWN,
RUBBER MAN. BECAUSE IF
SHE ABIDES IN OPAL, SHE'S
SOON TO BE DEAD
AS YOU ARE.

HERE'S A FACE YOU
MIGHT NOT FIND FAMILIAR,
JACK... INDEED A
STRANGER.

THIS
IS YOUR
SON.

I SEE ...

I SEE MY
FATHER'S
EYES.

TAKE HIM,
DAUGHTER.

IT'S **STRANGE**,
MY FEELING FOR
THE BOY. THE
CONTINUATION
OF MY LINE...
BLOODLINE... FOR
THAT I LOVE HIM.
BUT MY HEART
BRIMS WITH **HATRED**,
TOO. FOR IN HIS
BODY FLOWS THE
BLOOD OF
KNIGHT.

CAN I HOLD
HIM?

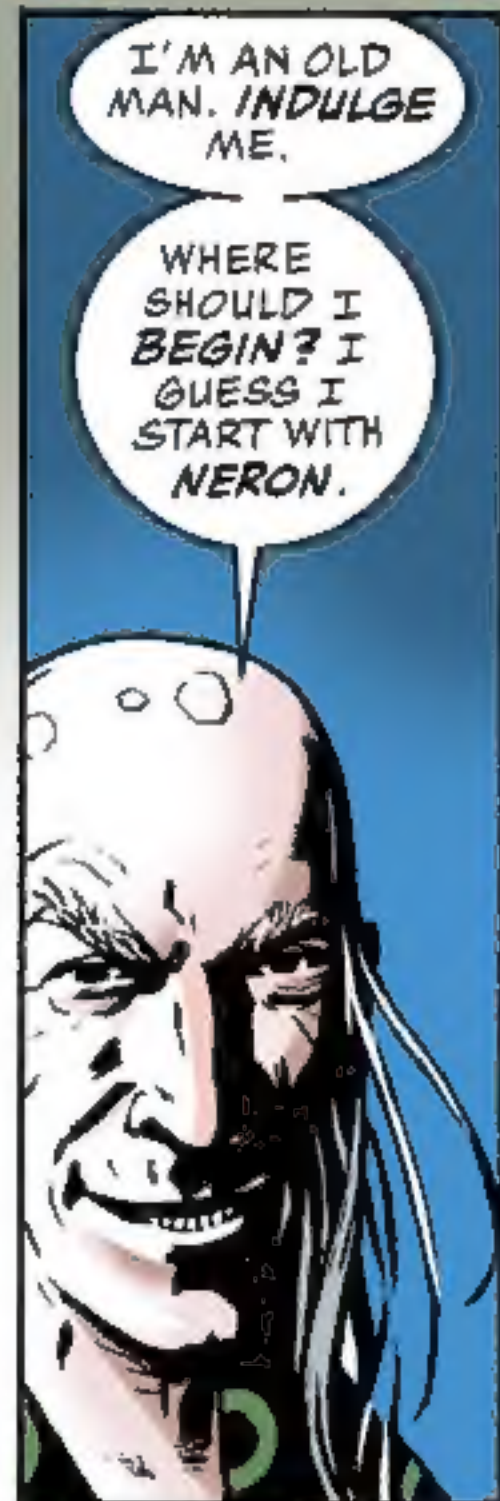
YOU WILL
NEVER HOLD
YOUR SON,
JACK.

I MADE
THAT PROMISE
A LONG TIME
AGO.



SO, SHALL I ELUCIDATE?

THIS IS THAT TIME THEN, huh? THIS IS WHEN YOU GET TO PLAY THE BOND VILLAIN AND MAKE WITH THE BIG EXPLANATION?



I'M AN OLD MAN. INDULGE ME.

WHERE SHOULD I BEGIN? I GUESS I START WITH NERON.



WHO?

I KNOW WHO.

ME, TOO. EVIL PERSONIFIED.



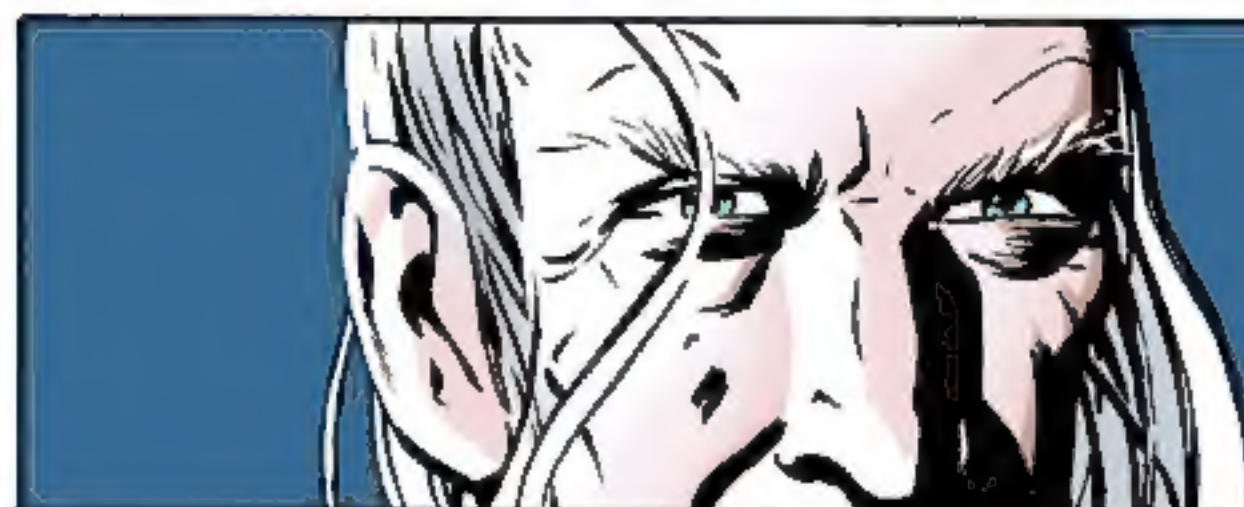
"NERON APPROACHED ME. WHAT WAS LEFT OF ME AFTER THE YEARS HAD TAKEN MY BRAIN.

"HE BROUGHT ME BACK. A DEAL WAS STRUCK. NOT A HARD BARGAIN.



"HE SIMPLY WANTED ME TO PERFORM EVIL. SOMETHING I WAS MORE THAN HAPPY TO DO.

"IN RETURN, MY MIND WAS RETURNED TO ME."

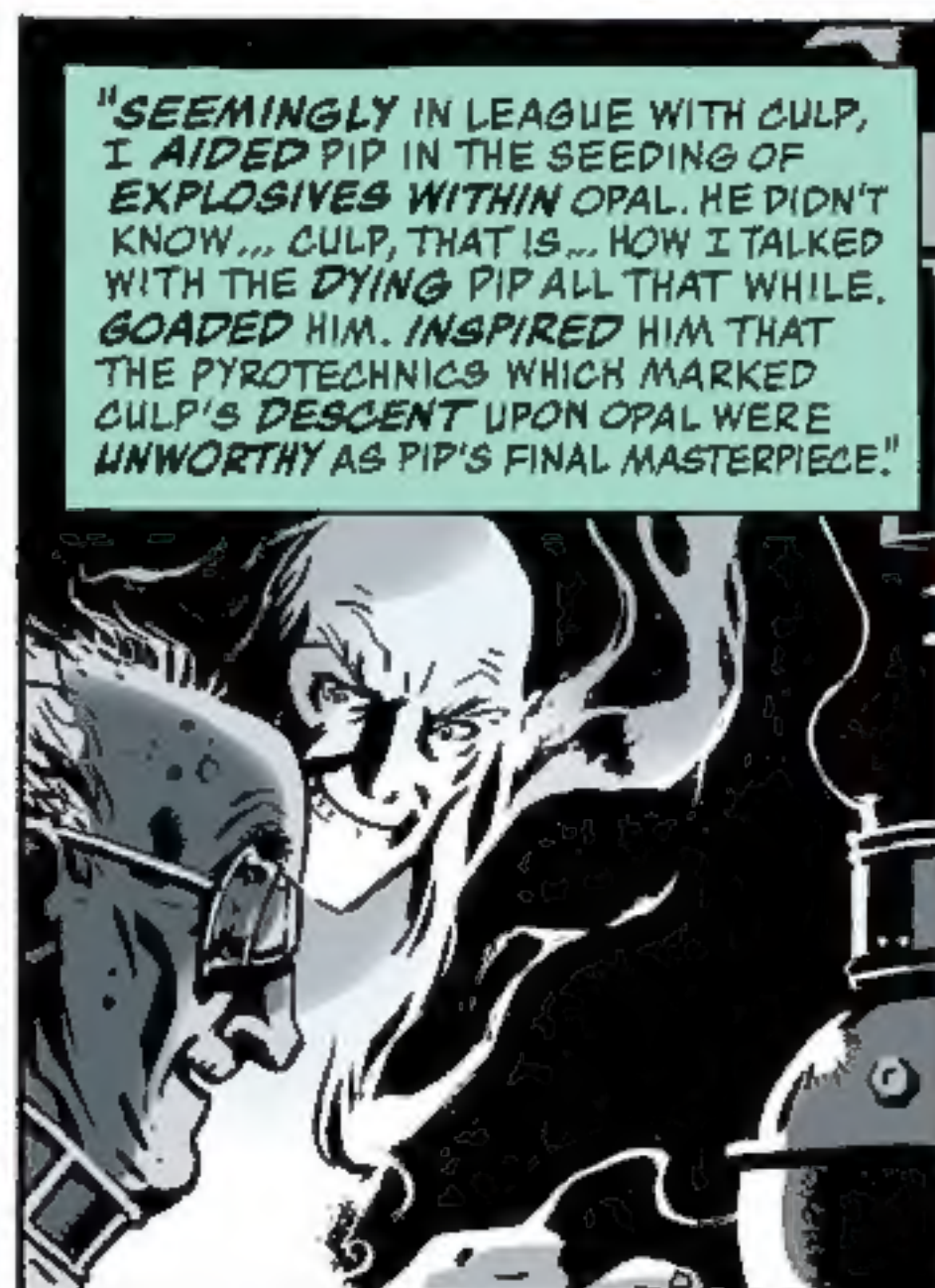


THEN I LEARNED OF CULP.

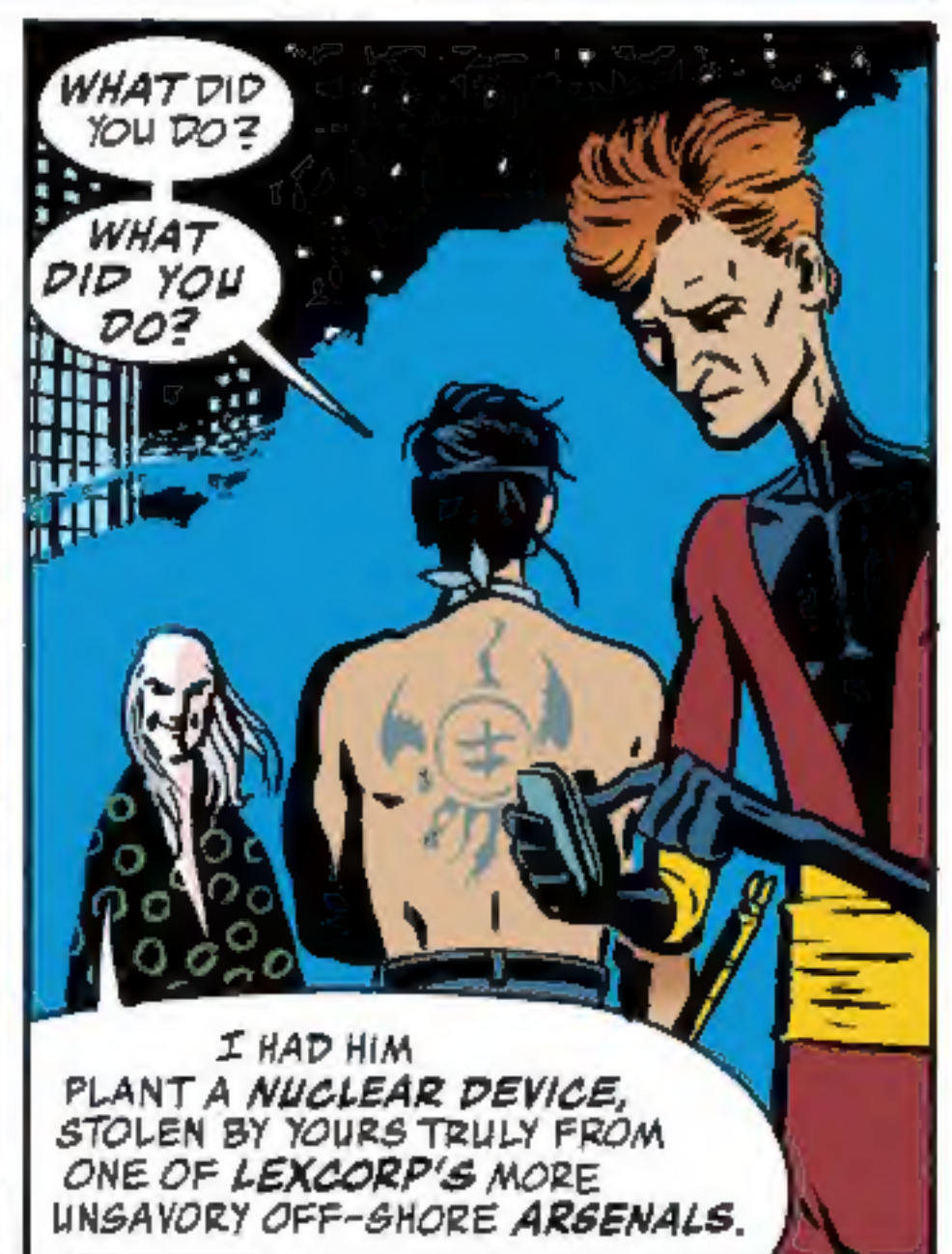
I APPROACHED HIM... HELPED HIM HATCH HIS PLAN. AND IN THE PROCESS LEARNED OF ONE WHO HAD COME AND GONE IN THE TIME THAT MY MIND WAS LOST.



"DR. PIP. EXPLOSIVE MADMAN. GENIUS.



"SEEMINGLY IN LEAGUE WITH CULP, I AIDED PIP IN THE SEEDING OF EXPLOSIVES WITHIN OPAL. HE DIDN'T KNOW... CULP, THAT IS... HOW I TALKED WITH THE DYING PIP ALL THAT WHILE. GOADED HIM. INSPIRED HIM THAT THE PYROTECHNICS WHICH MARKED CULP'S DESCENT UPON OPAL WERE UNWORTHY AS PIP'S FINAL MASTERPIECE."

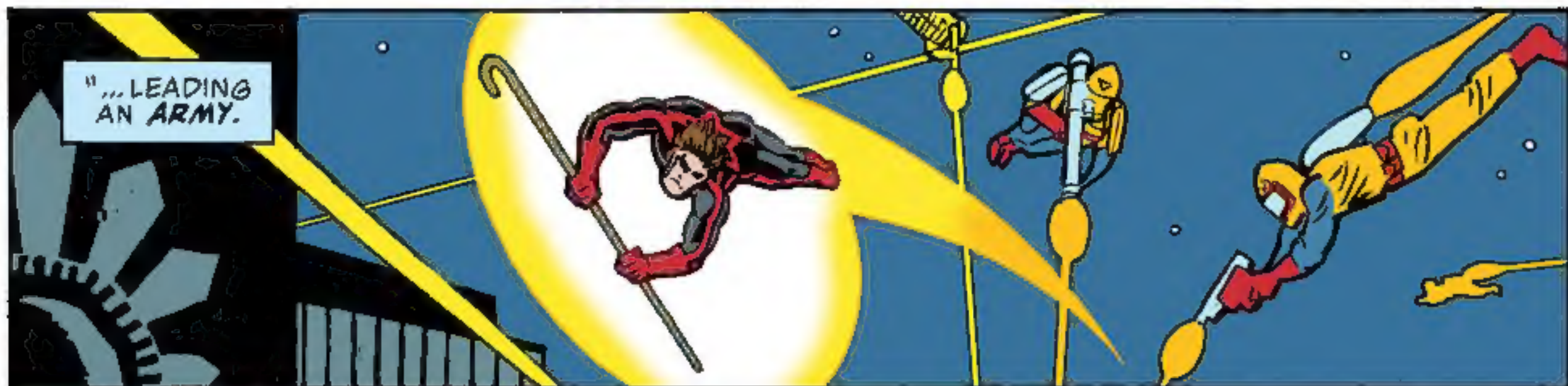


WHAT DID YOU DO?

WHAT DID YOU DO?

I HAD HIM PLANT A NUCLEAR DEVICE, STOLEN BY YOURS TRULY FROM ONE OF LEXCORP'S MORE UNSAVORY OFF-SHORE ARSENALS.





"THE ALIEN ARMY SEEMS QUICK TO
END THE TERRIBLE REIGN OF
CULP'S HORDE."



"TOGETHER WITH
THE HEROES
OF OPAL."



"EVIL WANES."



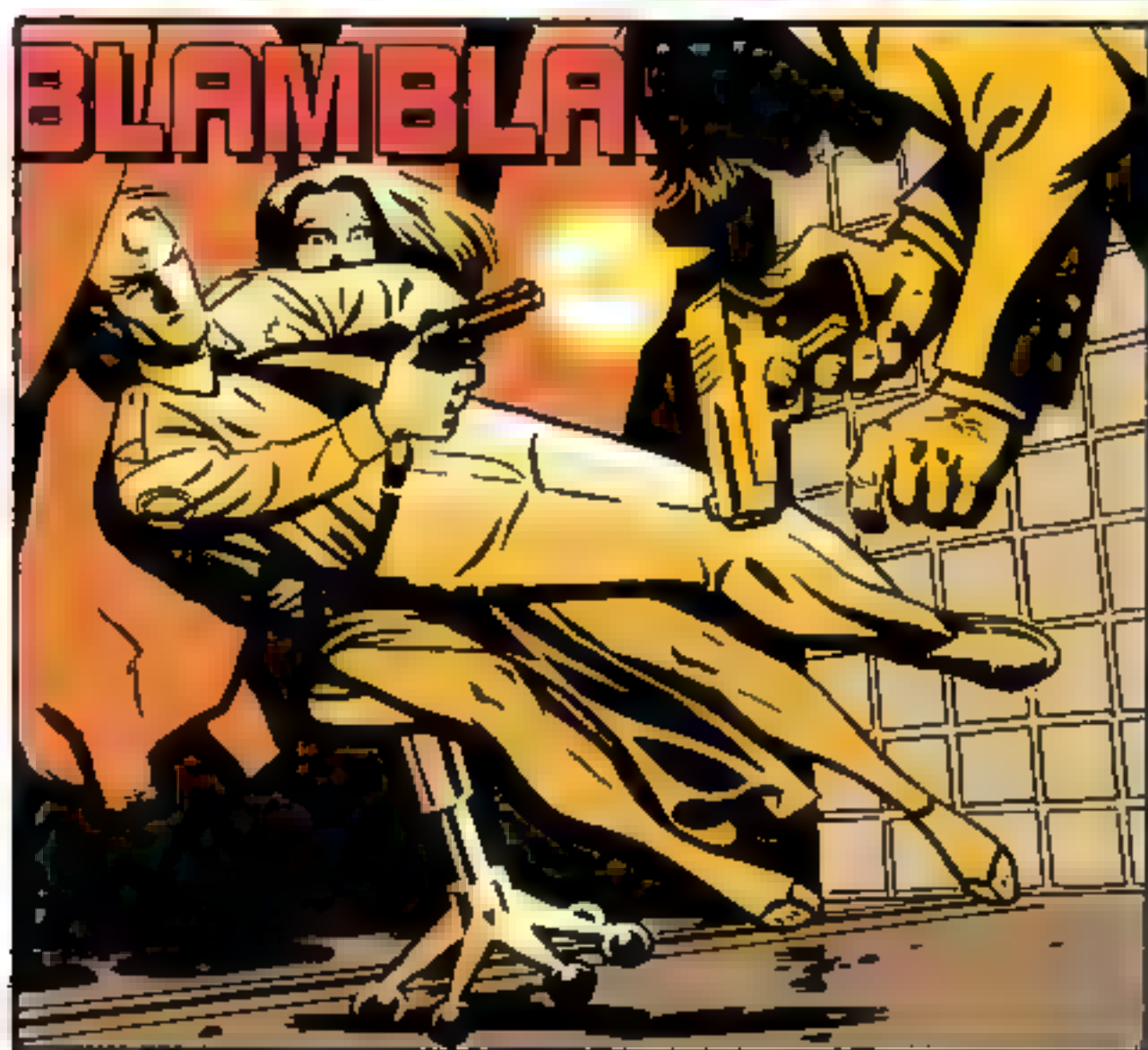
"SOON HE'LL STAND
BEFORE ME," SADIE
THINKS. "MY BROTHER."



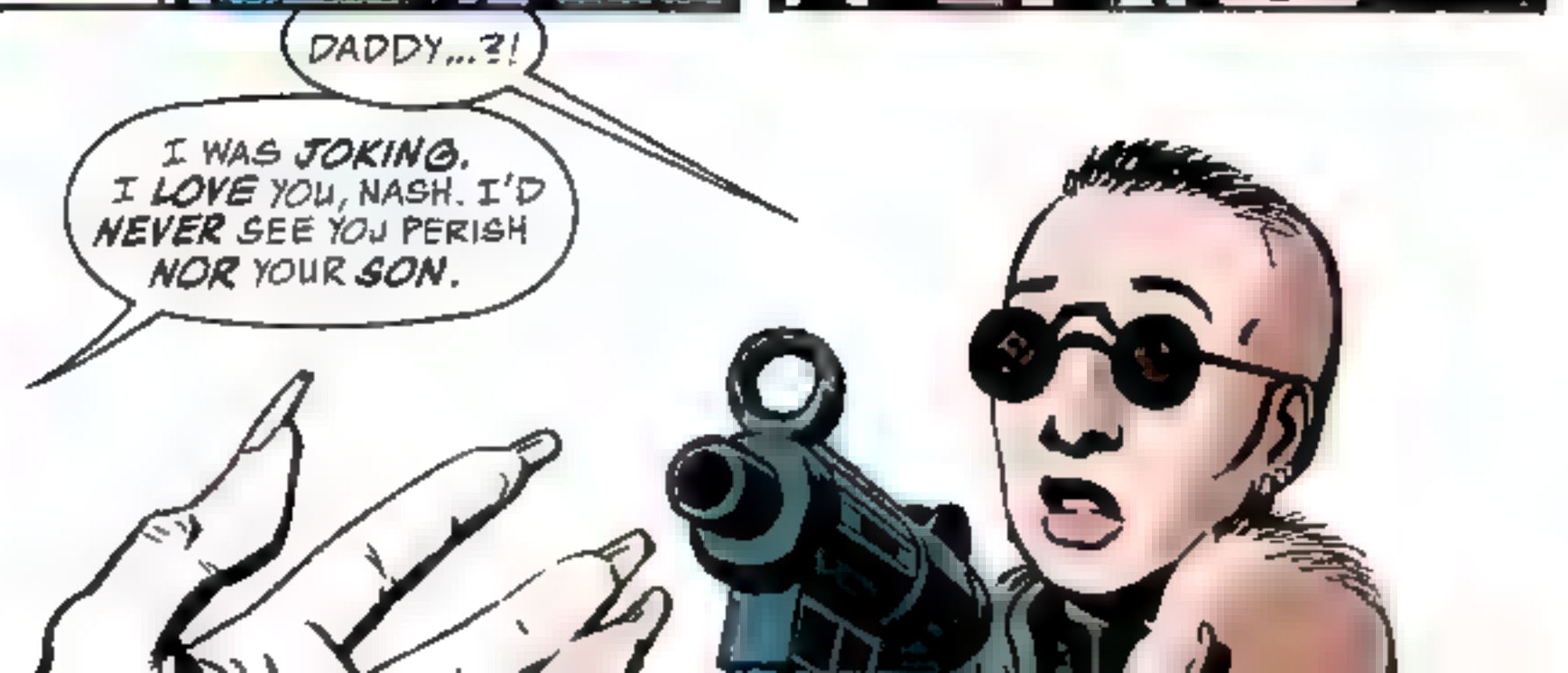
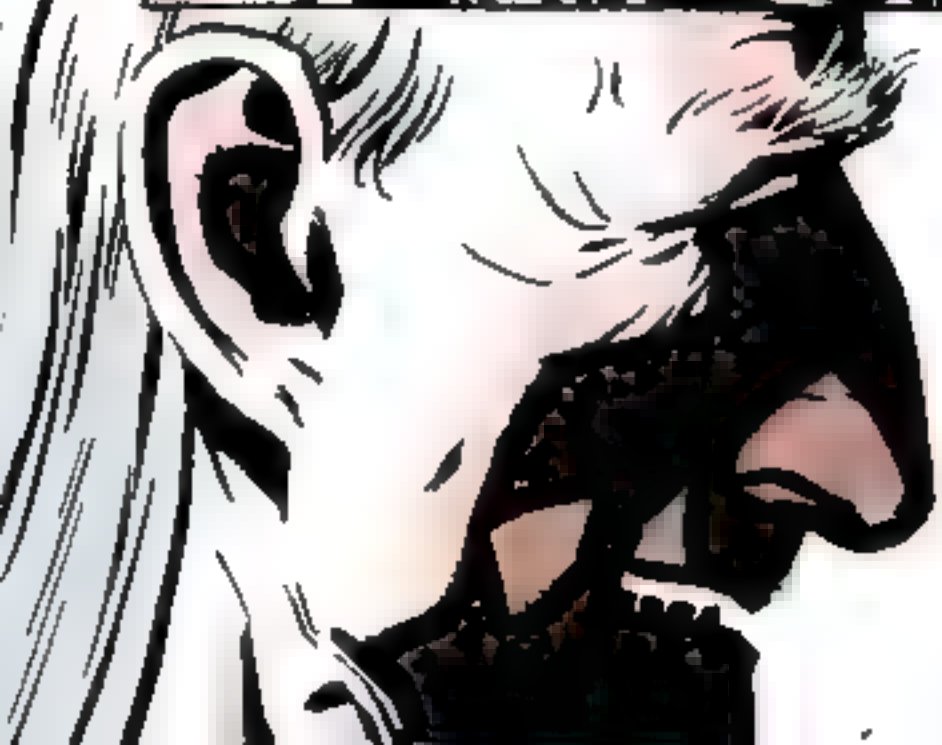
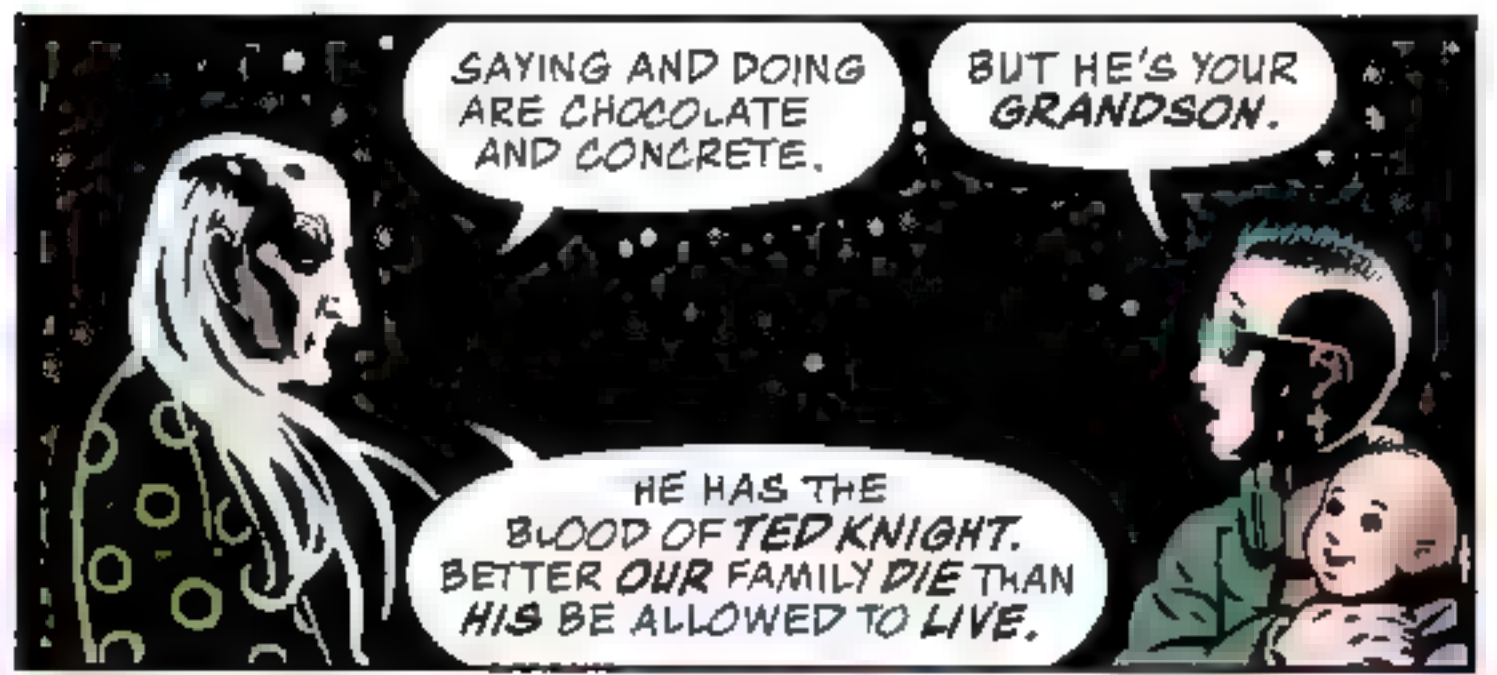
"PERHAPS HE CAN
SUGGEST... HE'LL
KNOW WHAT I
SHOULD DO..."

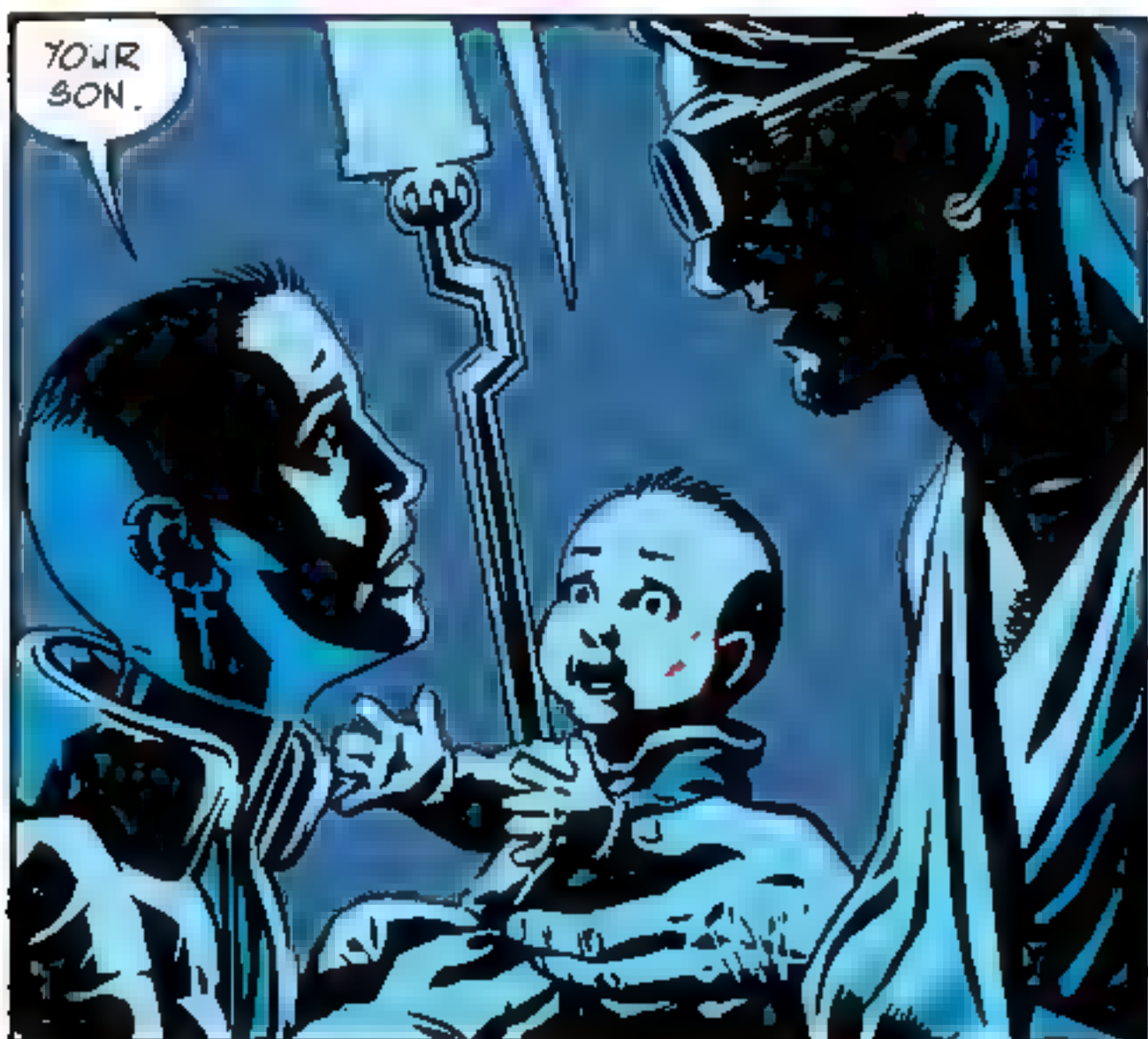
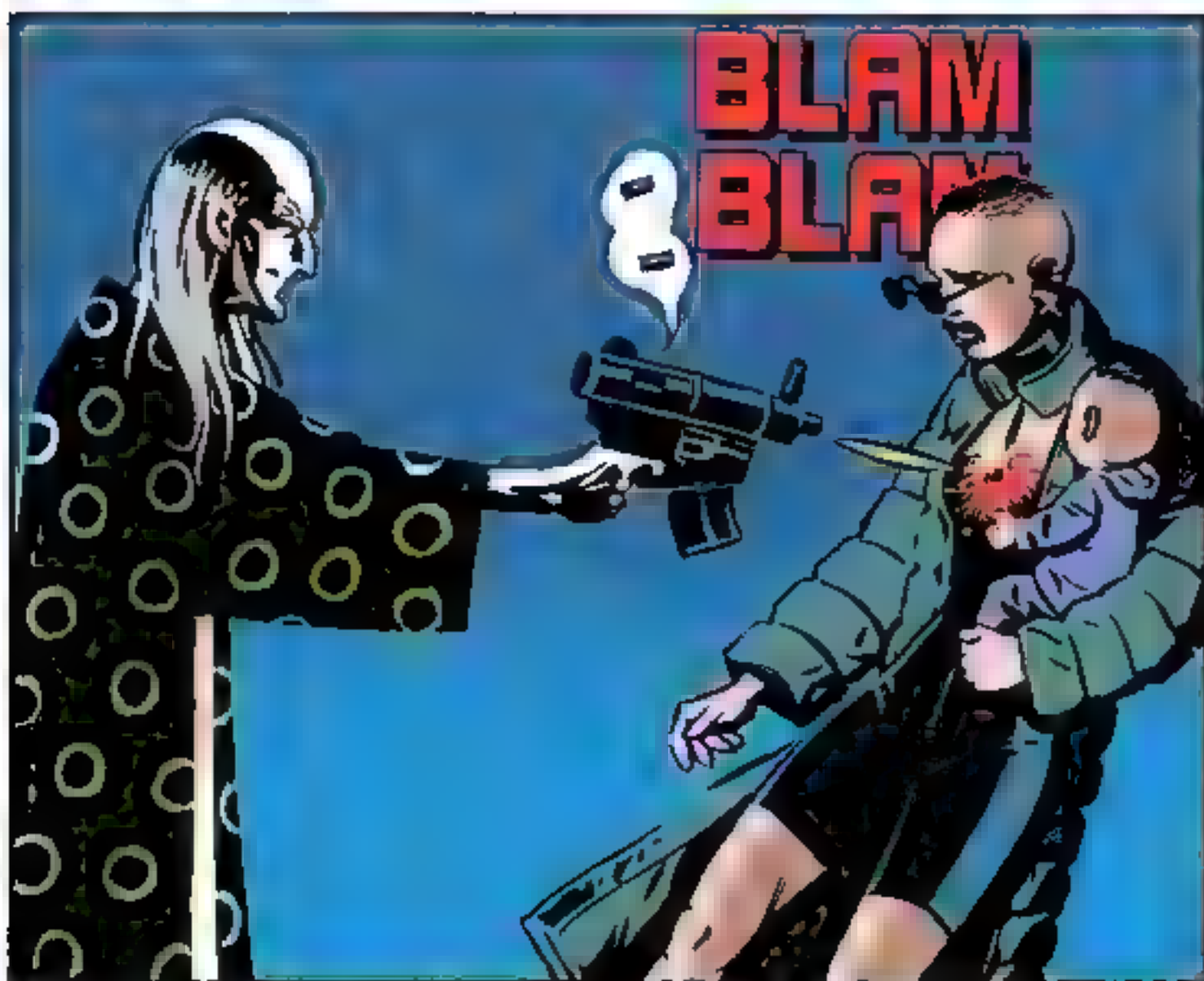
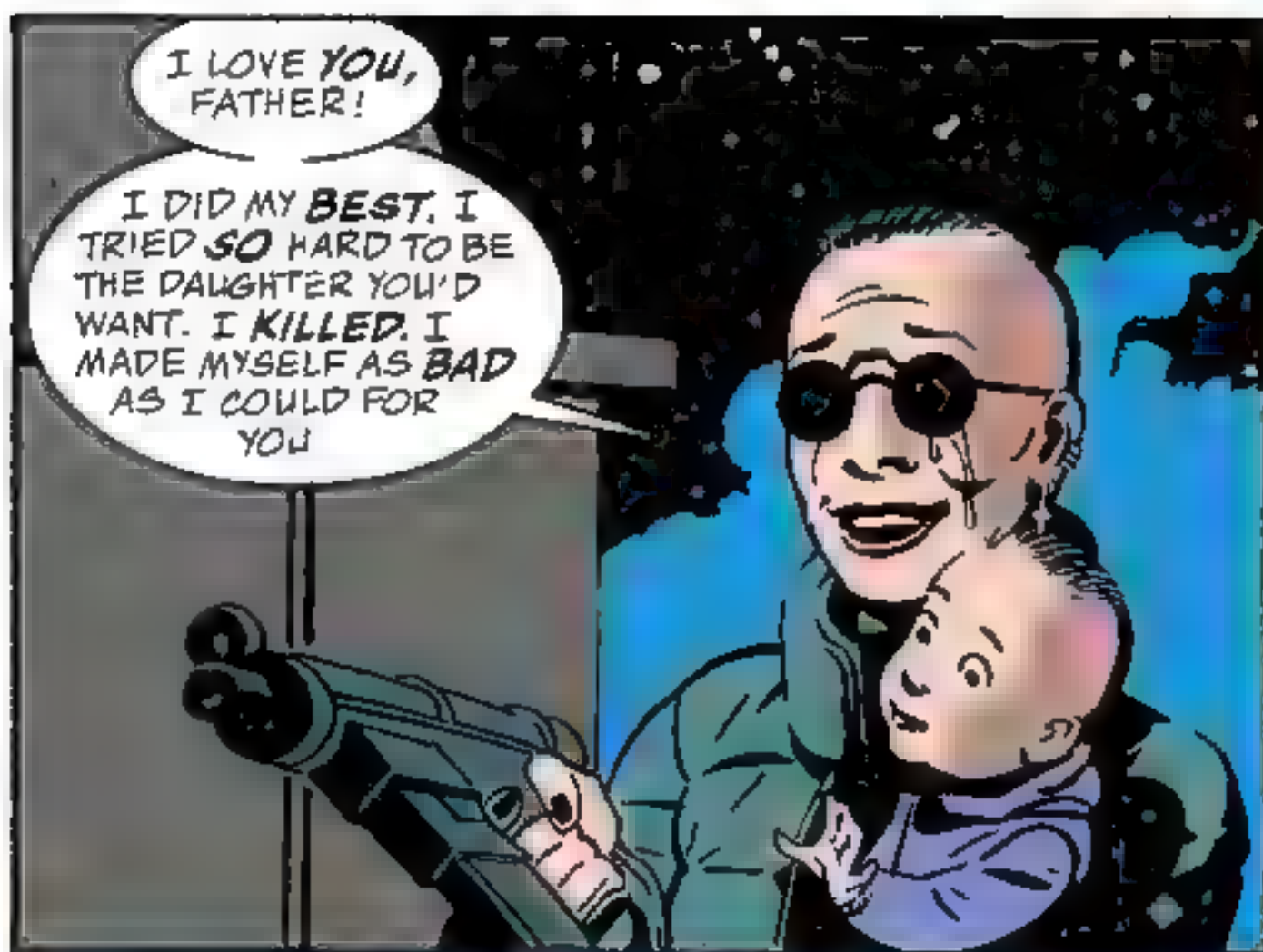
"... ABOUT THE
SECRET I'VE KEPT
FROM JACK."













NOW BY MY RECKONING, YOU HAVE **THREE** MINUTES.

MURDERER!!

MIST, THERE'S NO NEED FOR—



FOR WHAT, **BETRAYER?! DON'T THINK I'VE FORGOTTEN** YOU'RE PARTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR MY PRIOR DEFEAT AND MY SON'S DEATH!

I'M **DELIGHTED** THAT BY DESTROYING OPAL I'LL HIT YOU AS HARD AS **CULP** WOULD HAVE!



THEN **WHY** KILL HIM?

DIDN'T YOU KNOW? I **HATE** DWARFS

I'LL PUT AN **END** TO YOU.



HOW? SEND ME TO THE **SHADOW REALM?** THAT WOULD **ELIMINATE** MY VITAL SIGNS AND SET THE **BOMB** OFF. GO **AHEAD!**

NO. **NOTHING** CAN STOP ME!

WRONG!



RALPH DIBNY CALLED HIS WIFE. SHE DIBNY CALLED ME.

DAD!

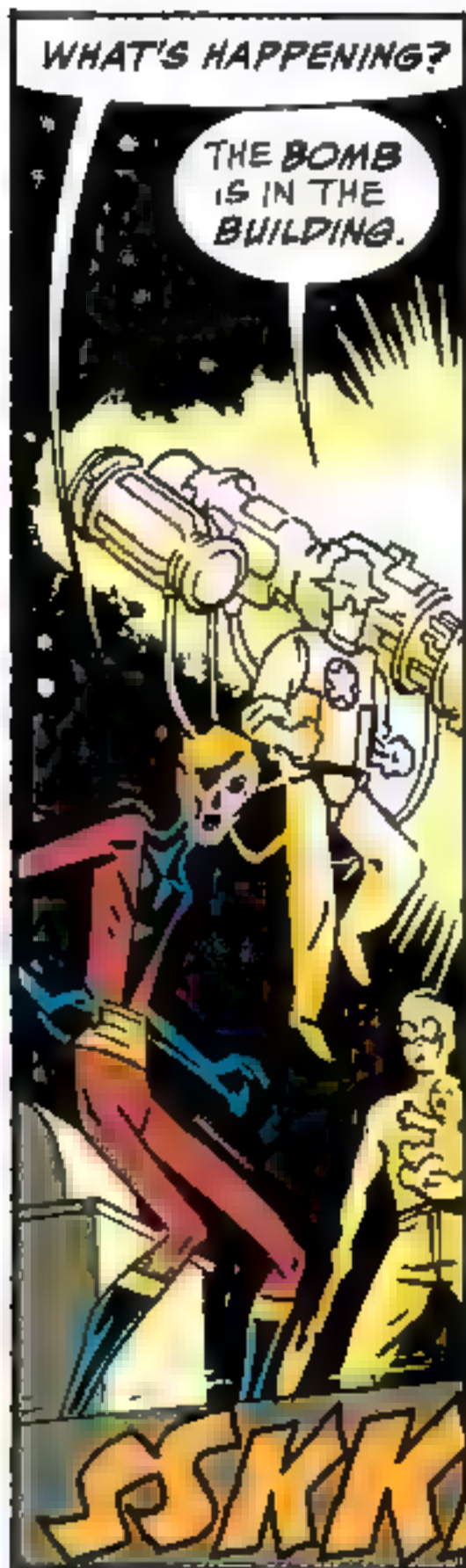


YOU INTEND TO **STOP** ME, I SUPPOSE. YOU HAVE A **LITTLE** UNDER TWO MINUTES.

SO **SOON**. NO TIME FOR ALL THE THINGS I WANTED TO SAY...

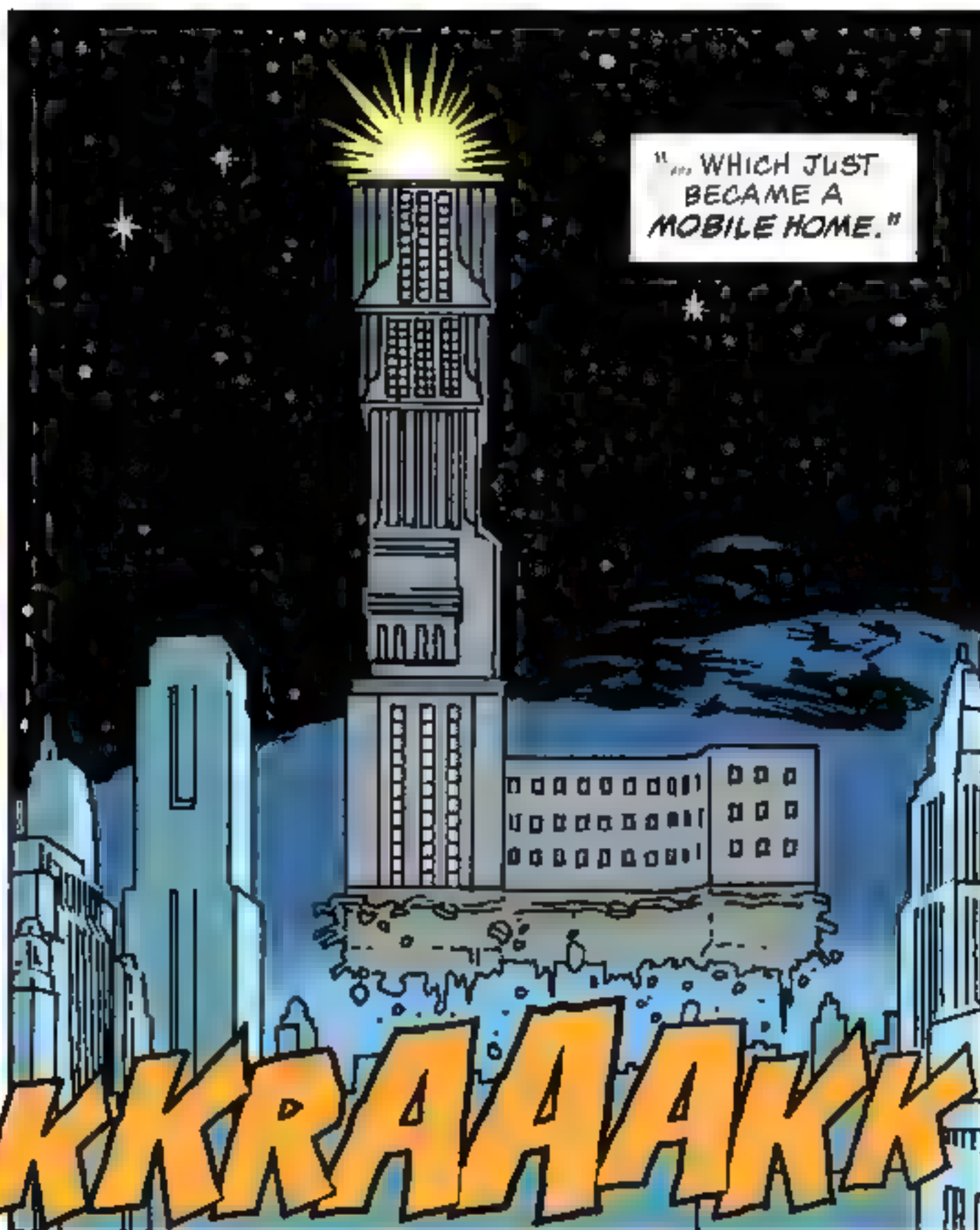
...TO YOU, JACK

NO TIME

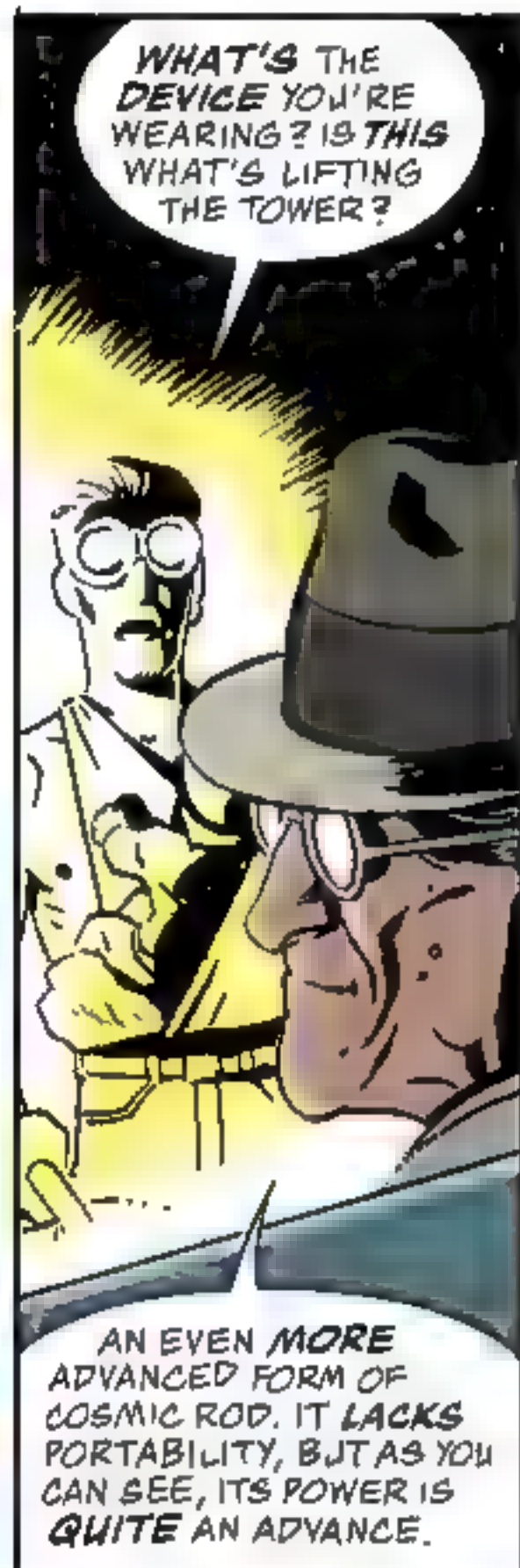


WHAT'S HAPPENING?

THE BOMB
IS IN THE
BUILDING.

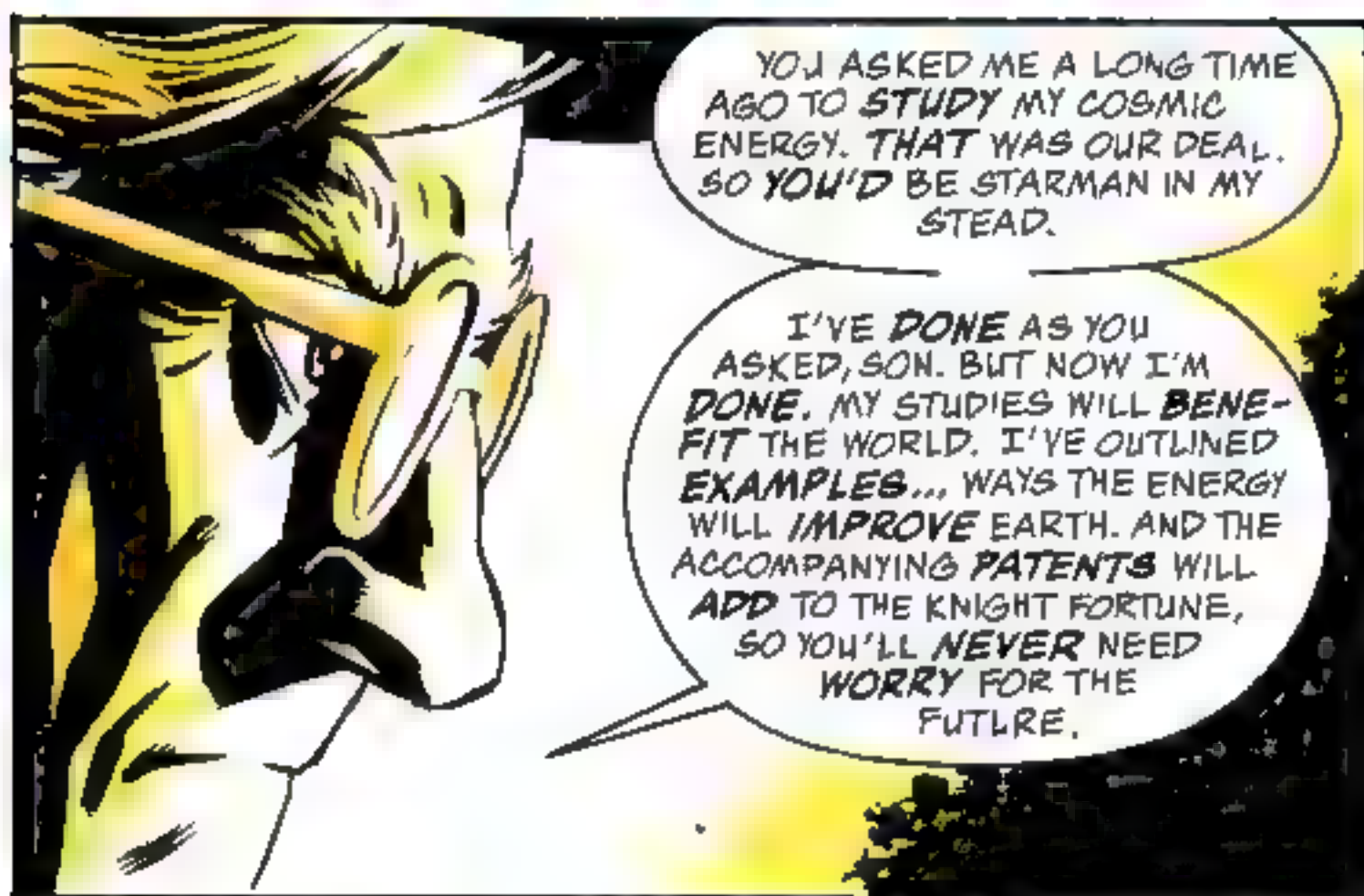


"... WHICH JUST
BECAME A
MOBILE HOME."



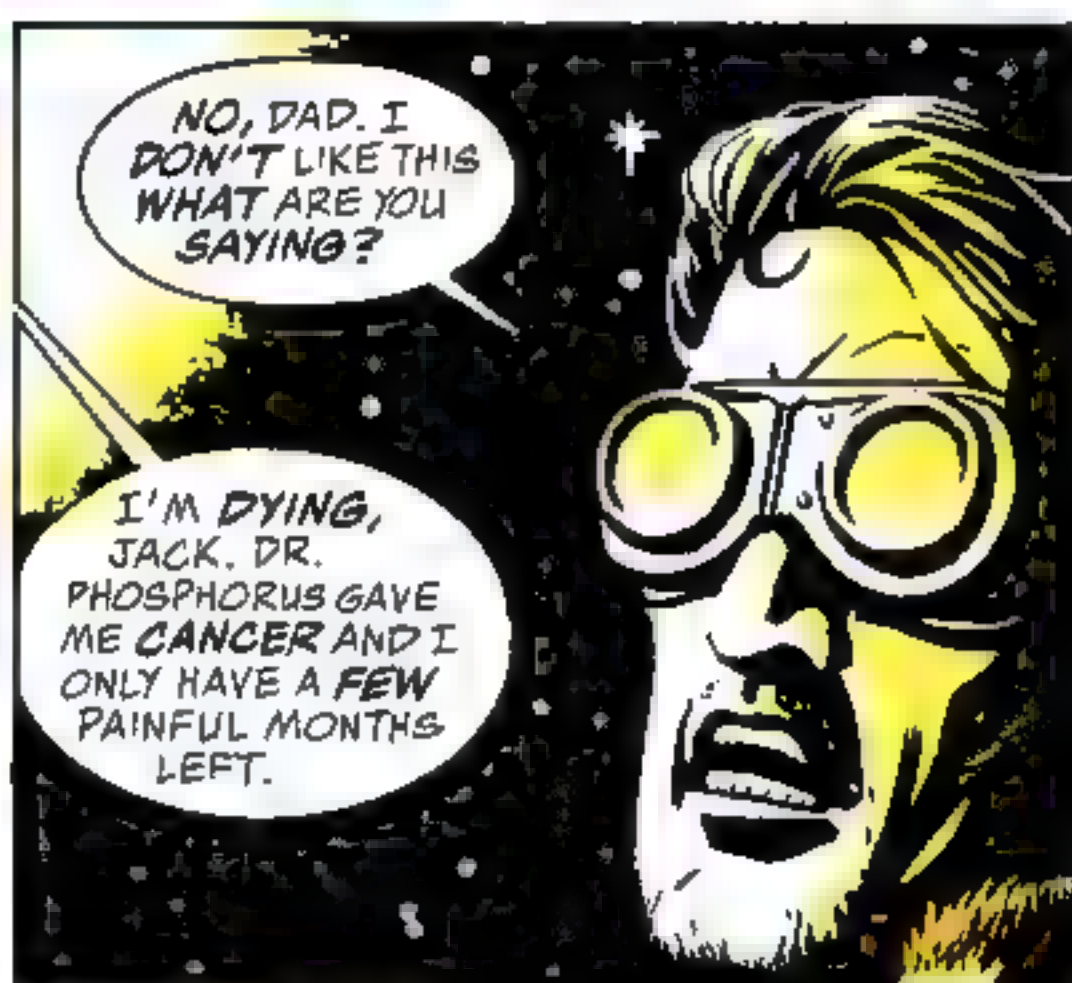
WHAT'S THE
DEVICE YOU'RE
WEARING? IS THIS
WHAT'S LIFTING
THE TOWER?

AN EVEN MORE
ADVANCED FORM OF
COSMIC ROD. IT LACKS
PORTABILITY, BUT AS YOU
CAN SEE, ITS POWER IS
QUITE AN ADVANCE.



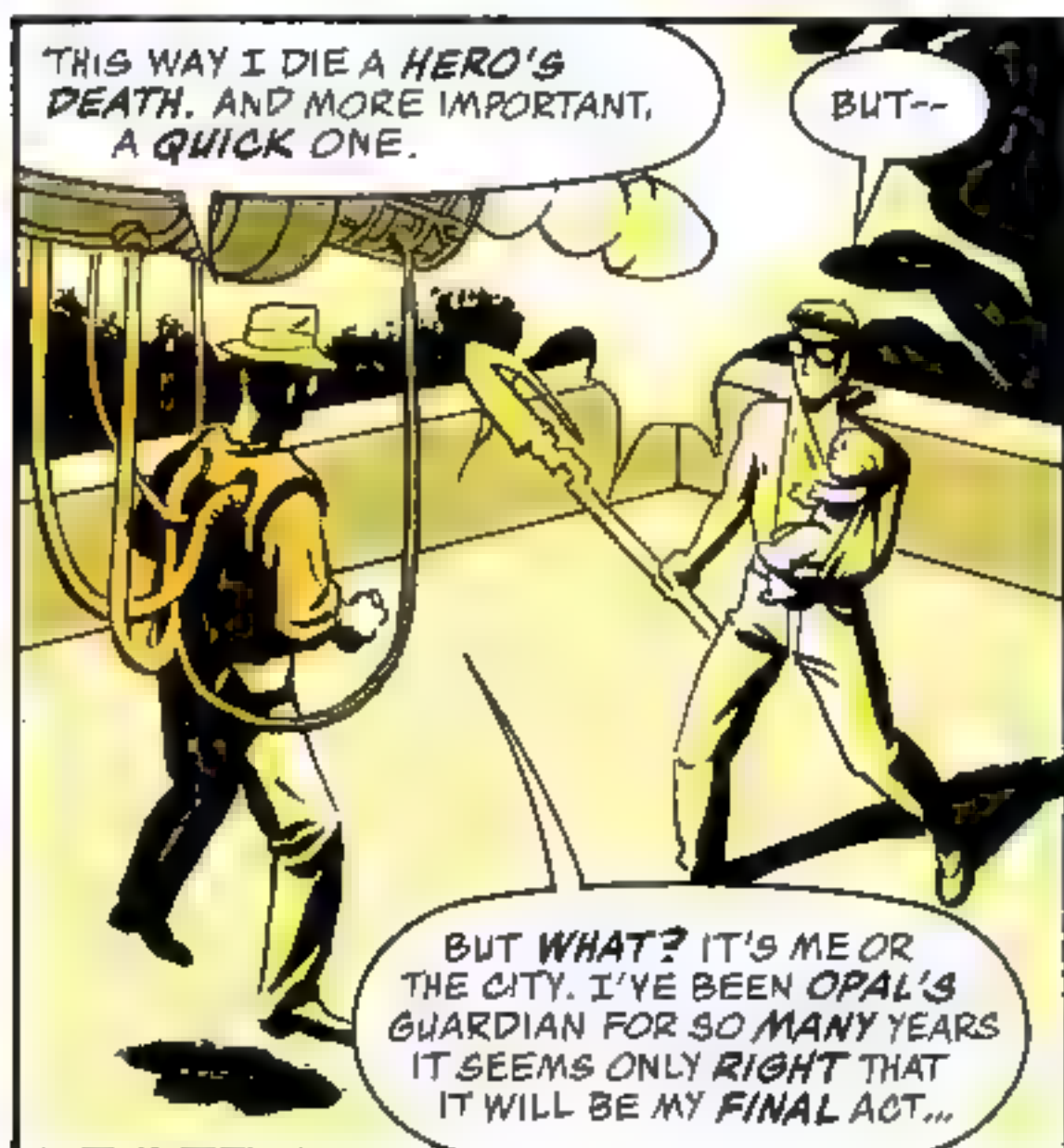
YOU ASKED ME A LONG TIME
AGO TO STUDY MY COSMIC
ENERGY. THAT WAS OUR DEAL.
SO YOU'D BE STARMAN IN MY
STEAD.

I'VE DONE AS YOU
ASKED, SON. BUT NOW I'M
DONE. MY STUDIES WILL BENE-
FIT THE WORLD. I'VE OUTLINED
EXAMPLES... WAYS THE ENERGY
WILL IMPROVE EARTH. AND THE
ACCOMPANYING PATENTS WILL
ADD TO THE KNIGHT FORTUNE,
SO YOU'LL NEVER NEED
WORRY FOR THE
FUTURE.



NO, DAD. I
DON'T LIKE THIS
WHAT ARE YOU
SAYING?

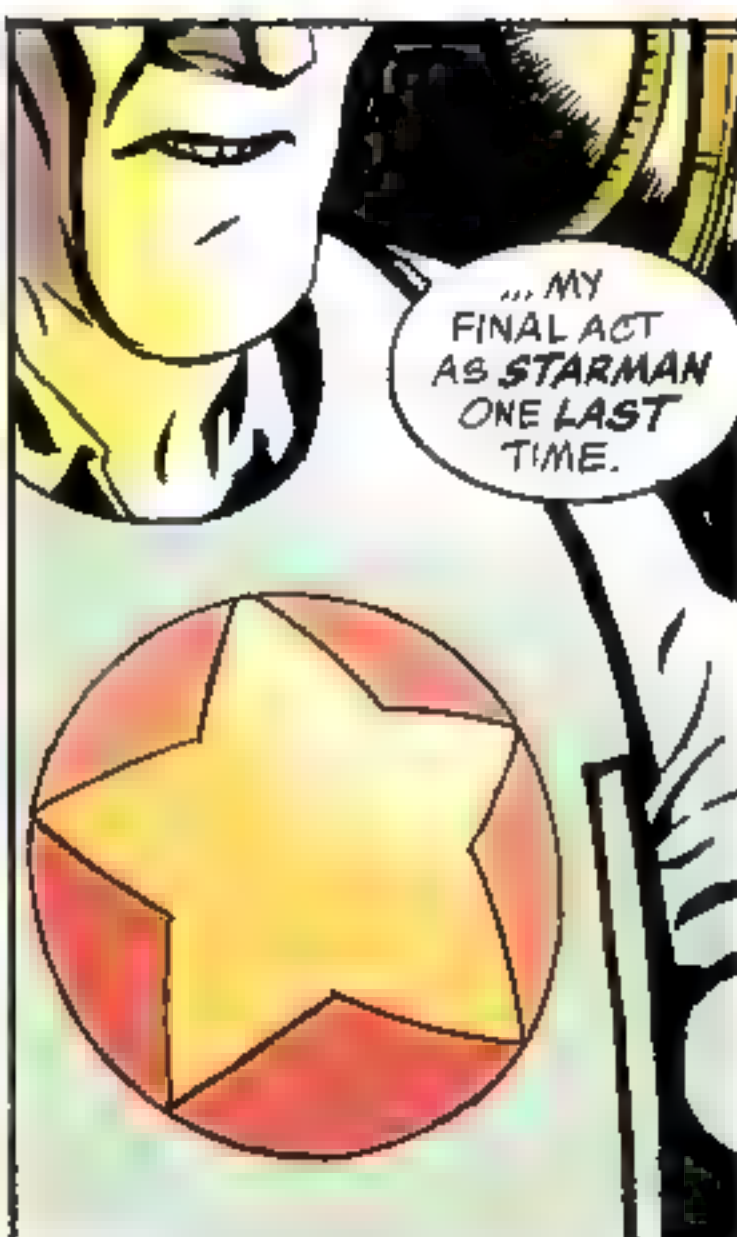
I'M DYING,
JACK. DR.
PHOSPHORUS GAVE
ME CANCER AND I
ONLY HAVE A FEW
PAINFUL MONTHS
LEFT.



THIS WAY I DIE A HERO'S
DEATH. AND MORE IMPORTANT,
A QUICK ONE.

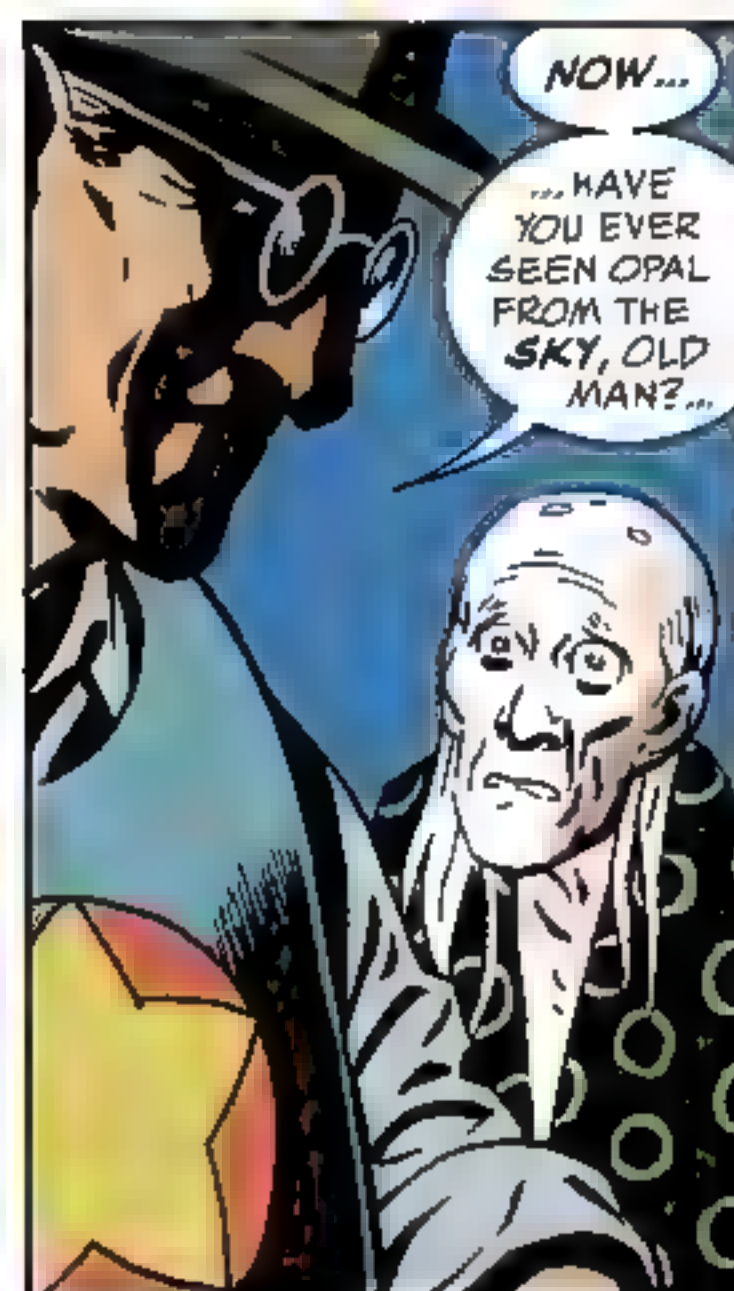
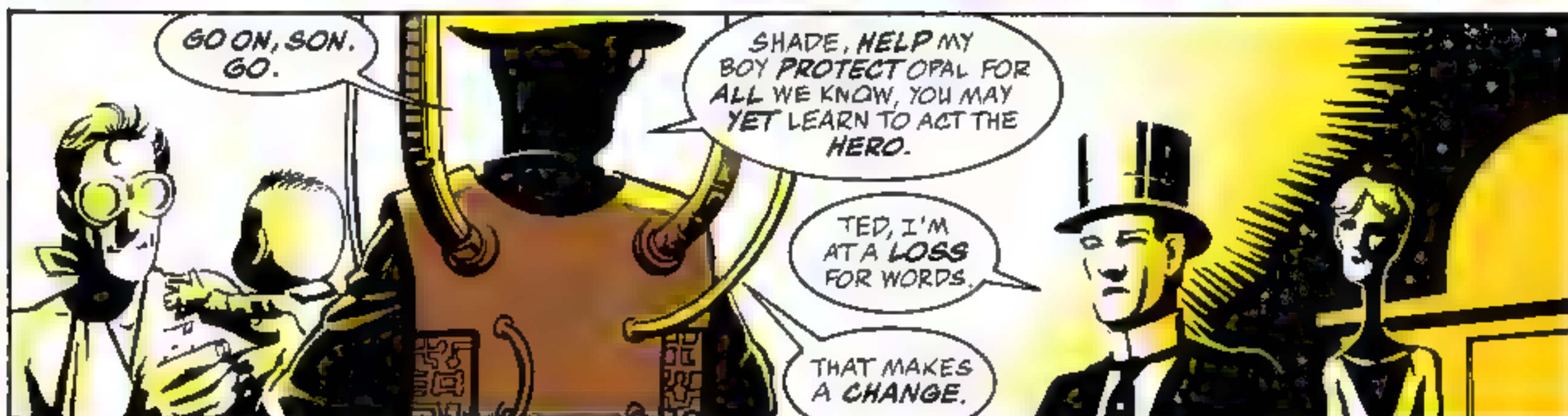
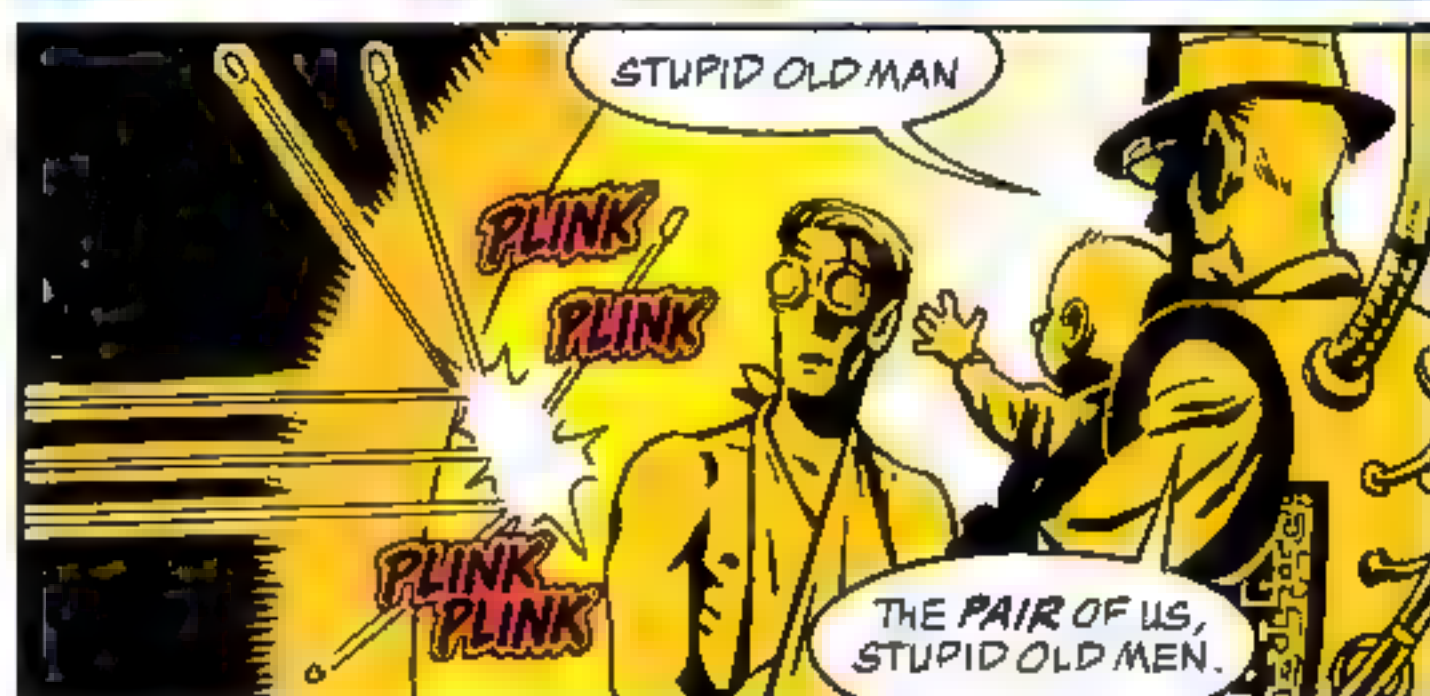
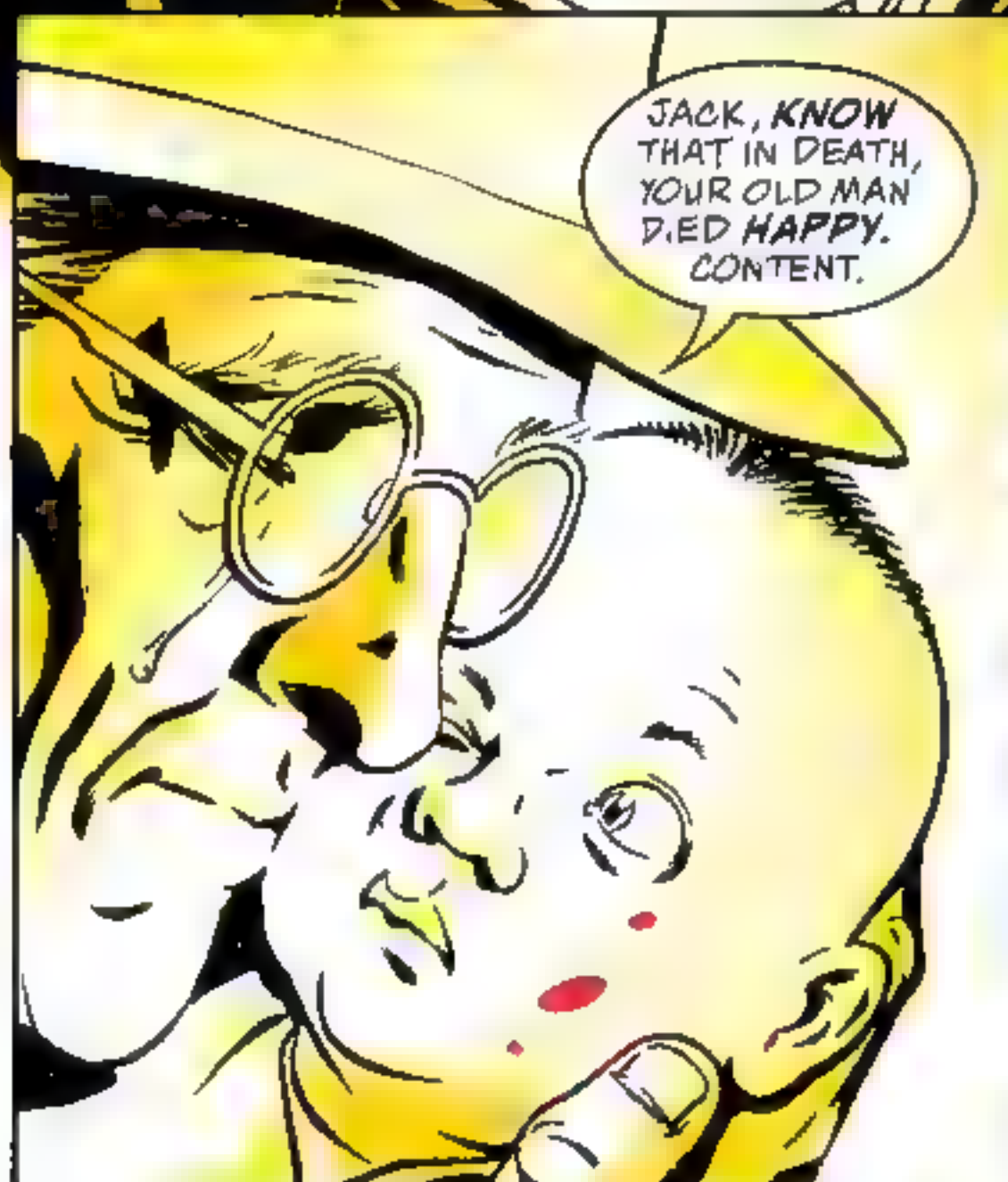
BUT--

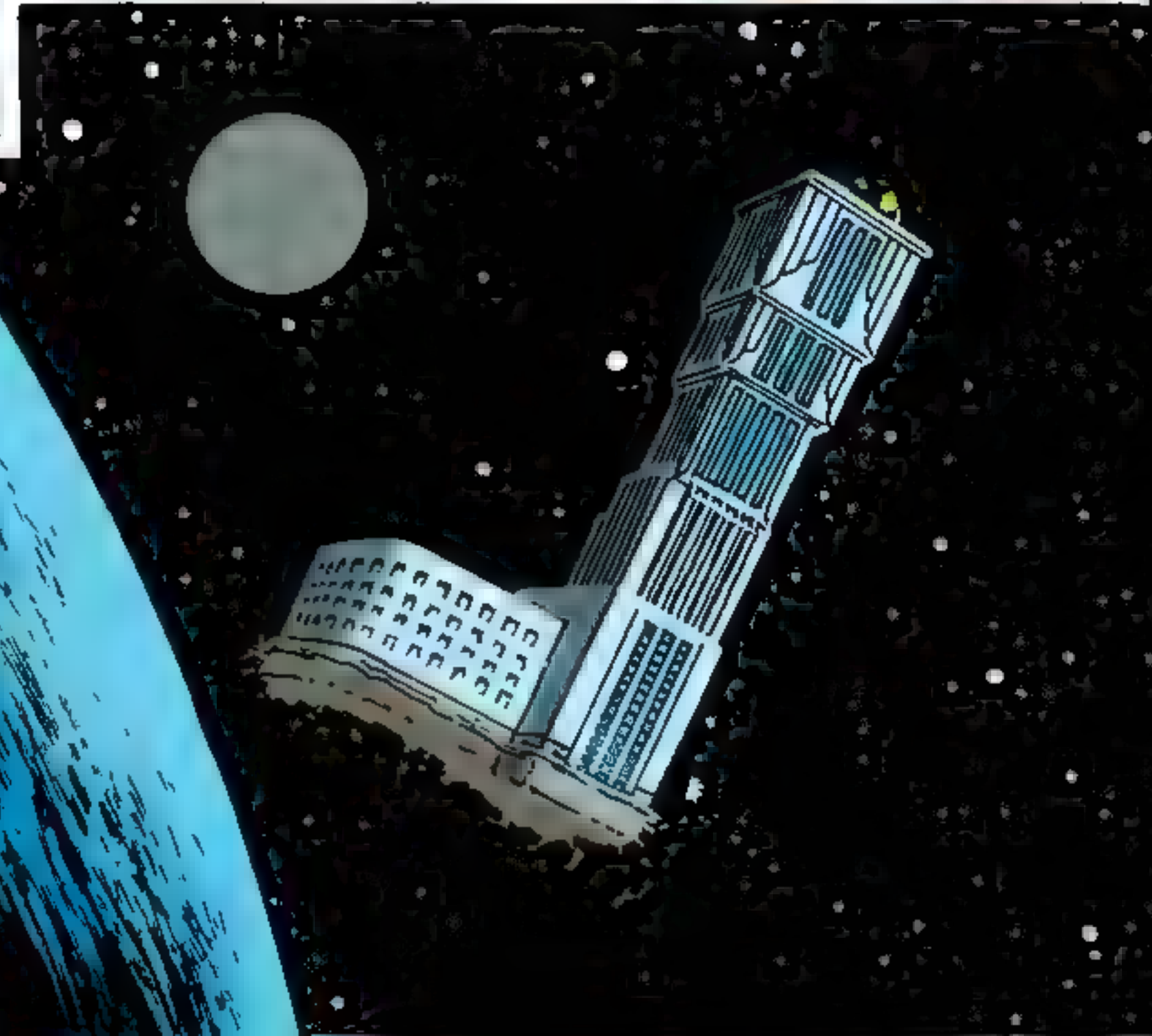
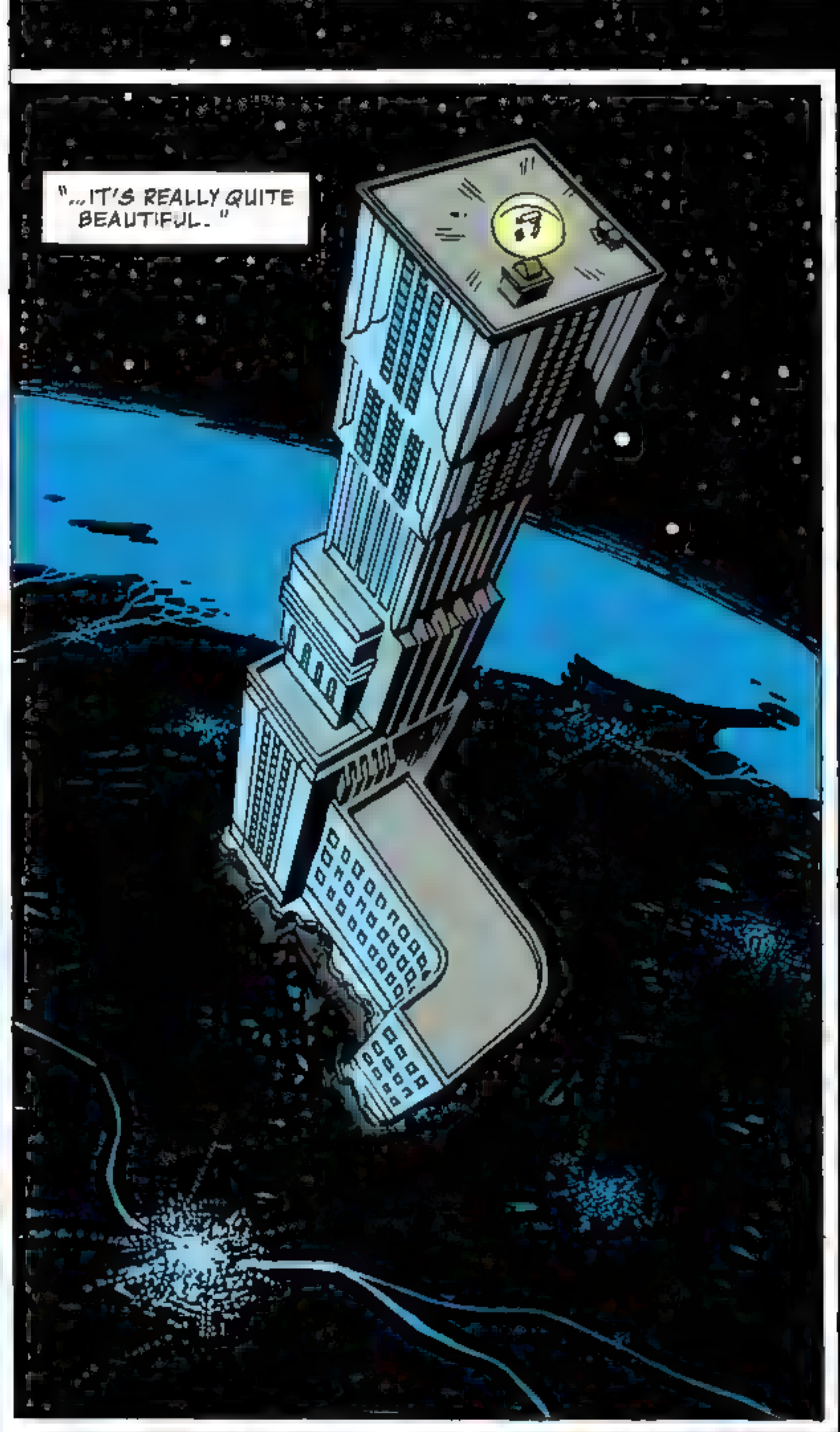
BUT WHAT? IT'S ME OR
THE CITY. I'VE BEEN OPAL'S
GUARDIAN FOR SO MANY YEARS
IT SEEMS ONLY RIGHT THAT
IT WILL BE MY FINAL ACT...

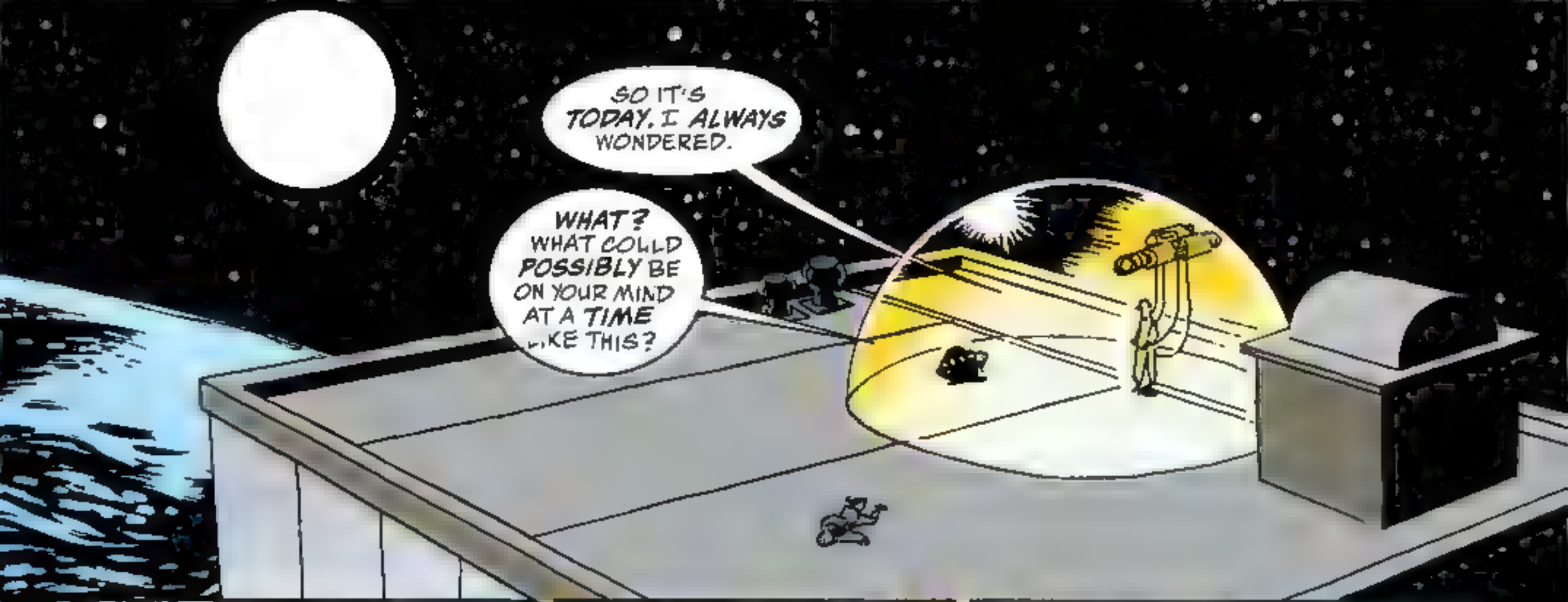


... MY
FINAL ACT
AS STARMAN
ONE LAST
TIME.









SO IT'S
TODAY. I ALWAYS
WONDERED.

WHAT?
WHAT COULD
POSSIBLY BE
ON YOUR MIND
AT A TIME
LIKE THIS?

THIS IS THE DAY TWO
SILLY OLD MEN HAVE THE
COMMON SENSE TO
SHUFFLE OFF STAGE AND
LEAVE THE WORLD TO
THE YOUNG.

ALL I EVER WANTED TO
DO WAS BEAT YOU

MY NAME... THE
MIST... I THOUGHT
THERE WAS A CERTAIN
PEDIGREE TO IT...
I THOUGHT--

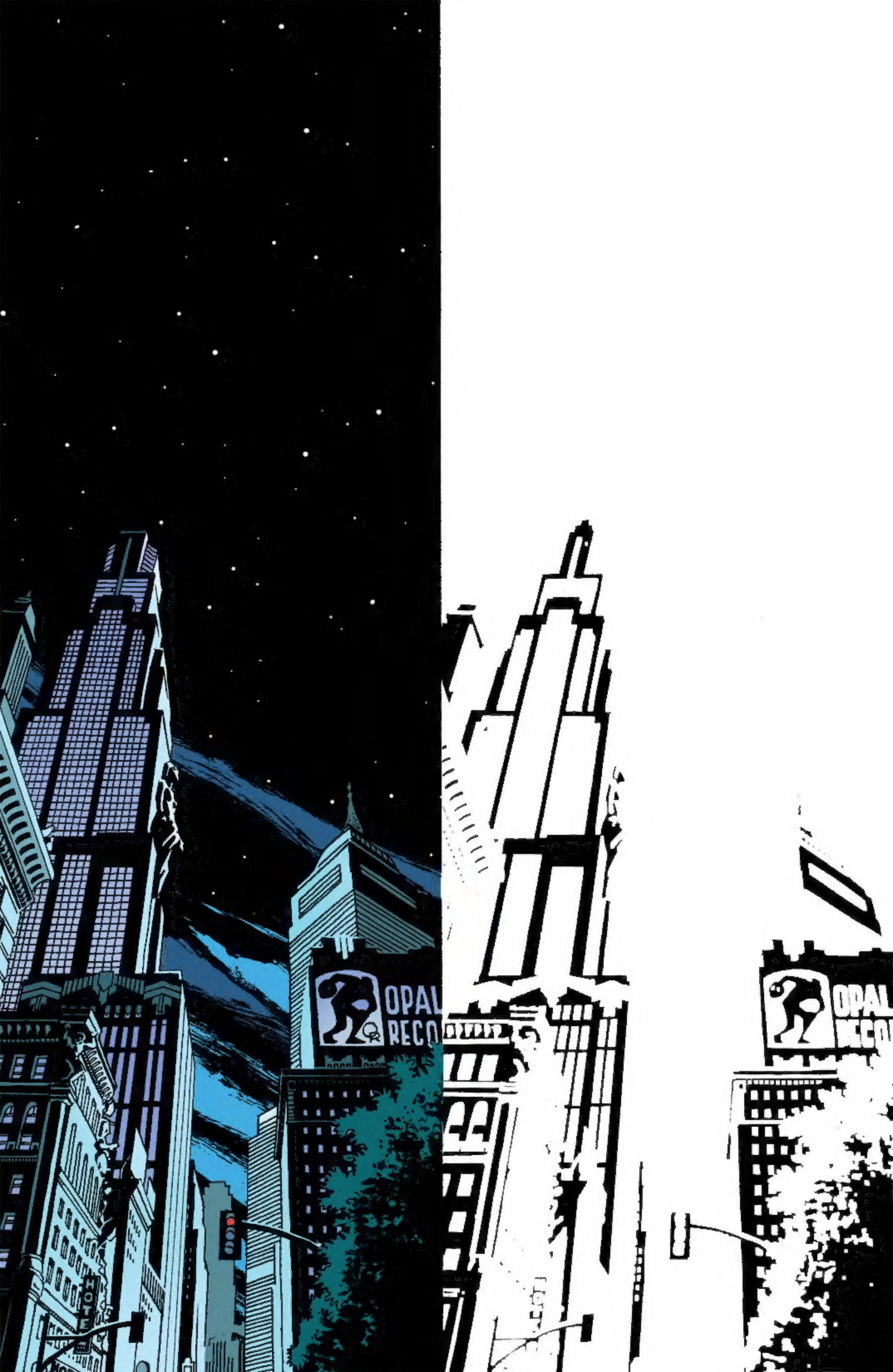
I SEE
NOW... I'M
NO MORE
A SUCCESS
THAN MY
DAUGHTER

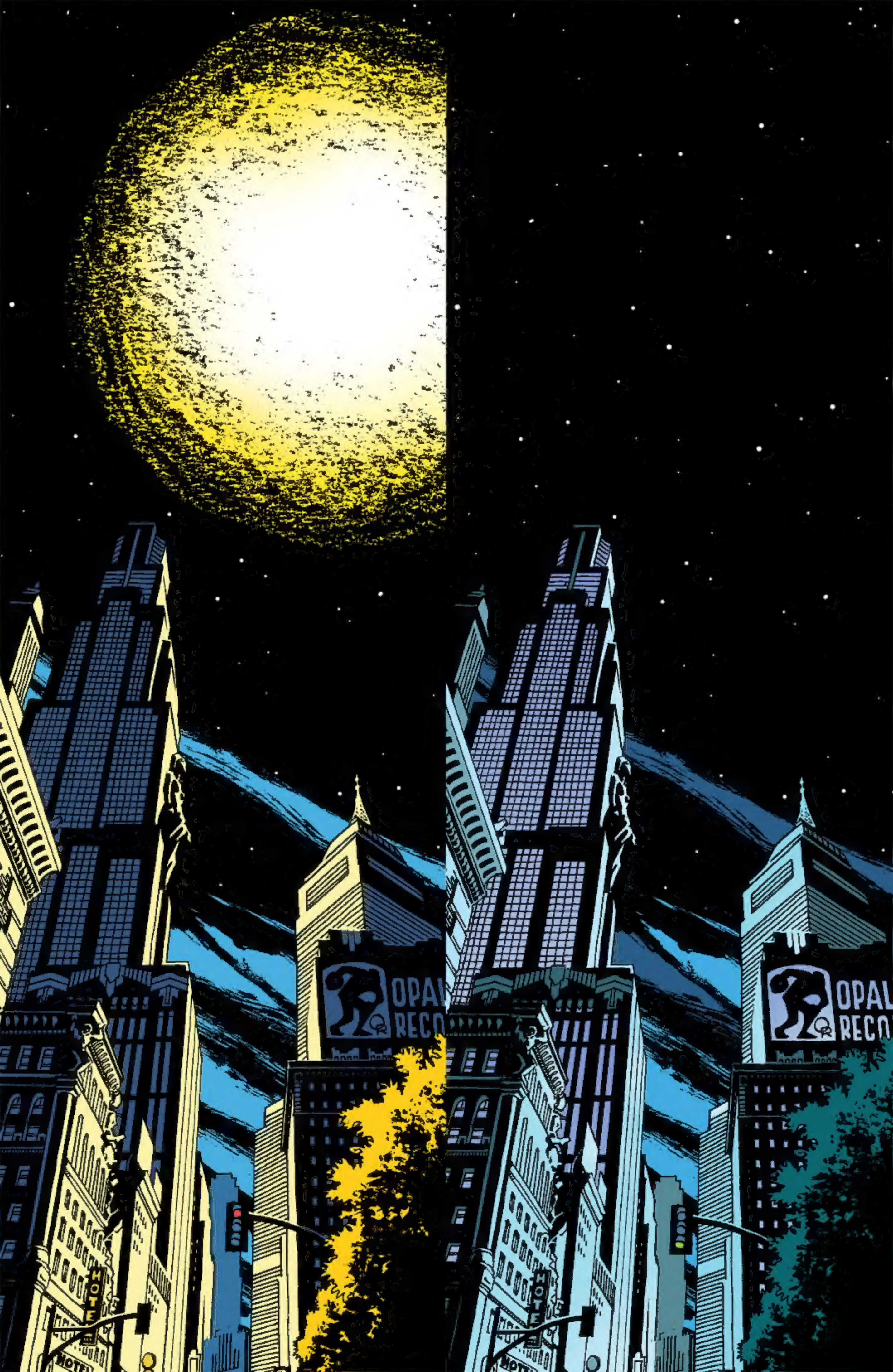
HEY, YOU GOT ME UP
HERE ON THE WORLD'S
BIGGEST FIRECRACKER.
THAT'S AN
ACHIEVEMENT.

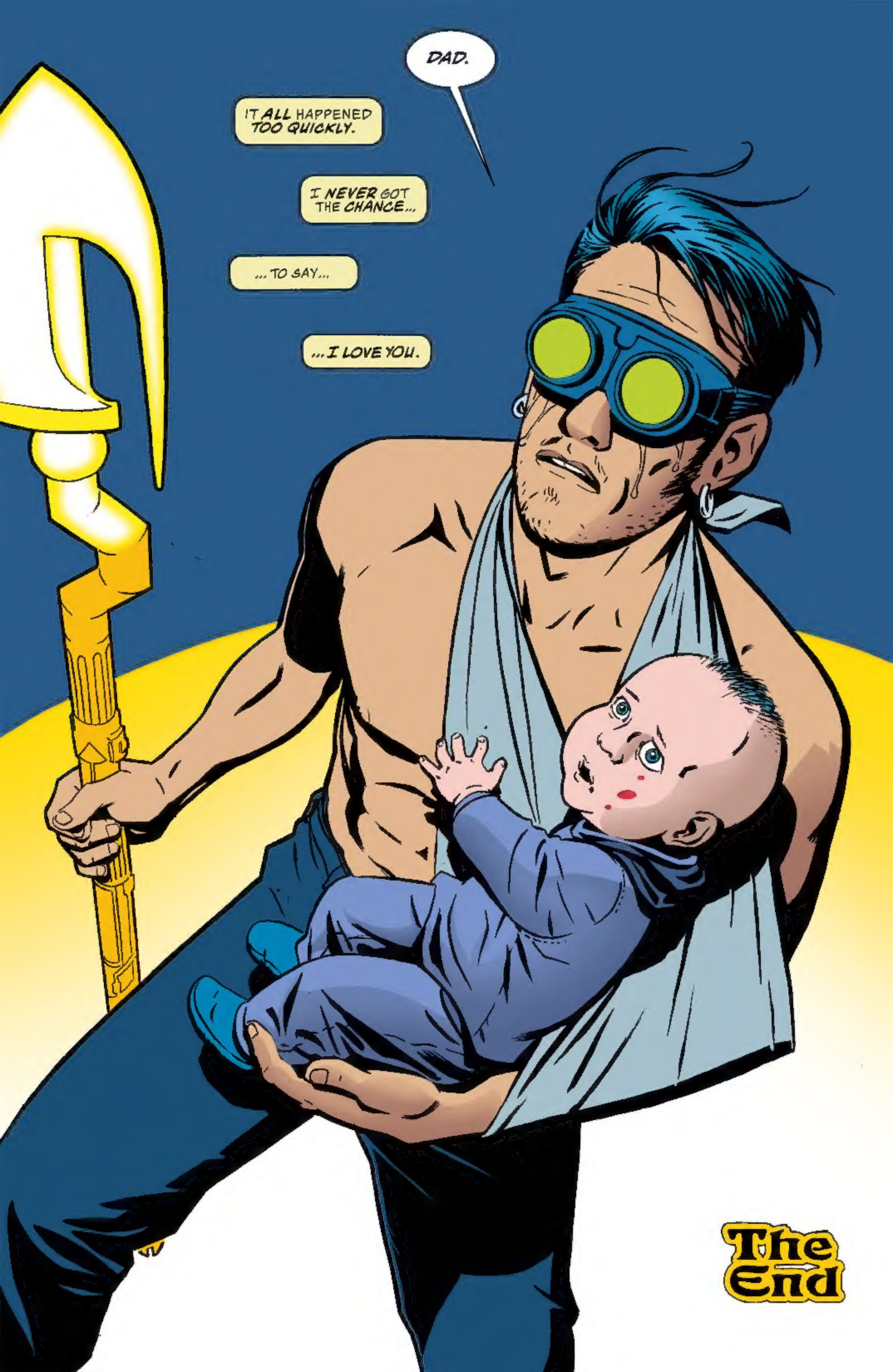
COME ON, MAN,
STAND UP. FACE
THE END ON
YOUR FEET...

I WISH I
COULD SAY IT'S
BEEN FUN.

ME--







DAD.

IT ALL HAPPENED
TOO QUICKLY.

I NEVER GOT
THE CHANCE...

... TO SAY...

... I LOVE YOU.

**The
End**

Deadman Wade

"THIS IS WHAT
AWESOME
LOOKS LIKE".

DCP